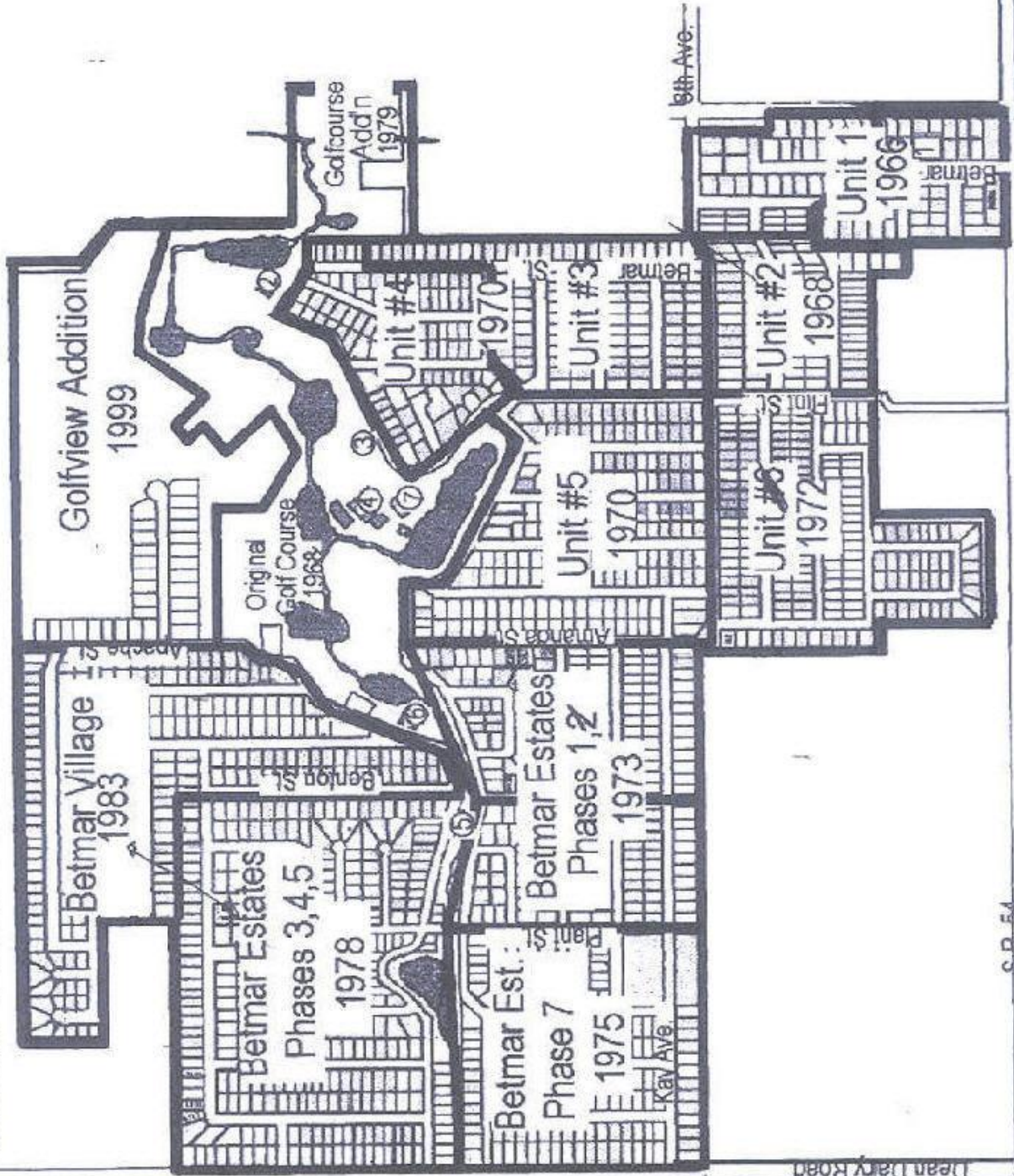


BETMAR ACRES PARK GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT-1966-1999

# HISTORY OF BETMAR 1966-2011

A 55 AND OLDER COMMUNITY





1976 Second house on Kay looking at Sunnyside



1975 Looking west on Kay at only farm on Dean Dairy



Comanche looking toward Grace



Comanche and Kay corner looking toward Plant



1974 Open Shuffle Courts



Early Bethmar

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Two History books have been written in the past. The first one was called **The History of Betmar from 1968-1984**. The second one was entitled **Betmar History, Millennium Edition 1966-1999**.

Information from the front page of the first edition remains the same for this third edition. "Due to the volume of information, we have tried to submit the most pertinent facts about the beginning, programs and record of events of this remarkable, beautiful, owner controlled and operated residential mobile home park... The History Committee wishes to thank everyone for their cooperation and assistance in compiling this "History of Betmar".

In the fall of 2009, our President of Betmar, Gus Clarke, formed a committee of interested residents to write this book. Many people submitted articles and photos of the Park, Clubs and Activities from past years. The children of the founders of our park were also interviewed (see page three). This book plus the two previous books, additional articles, and over 2500 pictures are included on a DVD which will be sold in 2011.

The History Committee would like to thank everyone who submitted article and photos to this project. Betmar would like to thank **Betmar Realty Corp** for their past and present financial support of History Books.

Chairman: Sunshine Hood

Editor: Mary Ann Gifford

Committee Members: Fred Fletcher

Linda LaForest

Joyce Brumbaugh

Barb Keenan

Kathy Mace

Cover Design: Bill LaForest

#### **H.O.P.A. (Housing for Older Persons Act)**

**H.O.P.A . Housing for Older Person Act. Of 1995 (an amendment to the Fair Housing Act)**

**Definition: Housing intended for occupancy by persons 55 years of age or Older where there are significant facilities and services specifically designed to meet the physical or social needs of Older Person. It fairly balances the rights of families with children and the rights of Senior citizens who choose to retire in communities surrounded by people of their own age. It houses at least one person who is 55 years or older in at least 80% of the occupied units and adheres to a policy that demonstrate an intent to house persons who are 55 or older. All communications must have the statement, "BETMAR IS A 55 & OLDER COMMUNITY"**

## **MEENGs AND SPRINKLES**

George Sprinkle and Mel Meengs met at Interstate Highway Sign factory where they began to plan the Betmar Mobile Home Park. The name Betmar came from Betty (Bet) Meengs and Mary (Mar) Sprinkle. The two men had a vision for Betmar. Ten men gathered in Sprinkle's living room to discuss this venture but when it came time to put up money, eight of the men left. They were prominent men with a lot of money but they didn't have the vision and neither did the bank. The bank told them that having a park with a golf course was a bad idea and they didn't want to fund it. That is when Tom Quimby stepped into the picture as the third partner. He was very frugal and had the money to help begin this dream.

The desire of these three men was to make Betmar a wonderful destination place for people to want to come back to. Large lots, shuffleboard courts with a roof and a golf course were a few of the perks they wanted to start with and they contacted the best people they could find to develop these plans. Many projects were done because no one told them they couldn't. One of these was digging the ponds. Heavy equipment was borrowed to do the work. When it began to flood, they dug canals and linked these ponds together with other lakes in Zephyrhills.

Johnny Meengs, 54, son of Mel H. and Betty Meengs and grandson of Henry and Fanny Meengs, was interviewed during the time this book was written. He is the owner of Settler's Rest, outside of Zephyrhills. It was designed after Betmar. The Meengs' children are Dwight, John, Marta Kay and Melinda (Linda). Sandy and Bob Sprinkle, children of Mary and George Sprinkle, were also interviewed. Their video interview is on the history DVD.

The streets in Betmar were named after the female relatives of the Meengs, their friends, places they had traveled to and Indian tribes because Indian artifacts were found when digging the ponds. Kay was after Marta's middle name and Tara and Carol were Marta's friends. Dina was Linda's friend. Amanda and Beverly were friends of the sisters. Vera was a friend of the Sprinkles. Beth, Barbara and Lois were cousins.

Hill Street was named after Carl Hill who built the first Betmar home. Jo was Linda's middle name. Grace was Betty's middle name and Plant was the sewer plant.

Clubhouse #2 was built so the residents could have and organized activities that they wanted. Some of the first activities were square dances, gospel sings, and ceramics.

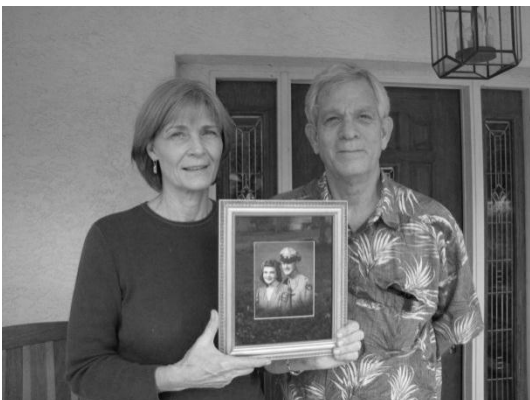
The first house in Betmar is where Marta Street ends by the 54 entrance. This was built in 1949 by Carl Hill who developed Zephyr Shores. Betmar was built in 16 phases because the bank would have charged too much to develop it all at once. The first roads were like a washboard and had to be made level before the lots were developed. Betmar has grown from 197 acres with one house in 1966 to 445 acres with 1670 homes in 2010.



Johnny Meengs with photo of parents



Betty and Mel H. Meengs



Sandy and Bob Sprinkle with parent photo



Mary and George Sprinkle

## **Early Betmar Document**

### **BETMAR ACRES MOBILE HOME SUBDIVISION**

Located 1 Mile West on Hwy. 54 from downtown Zephyrhills, Florida

Life in the Finest Subdivision for Considerably Less

#### **LOT SIZES AND COST:**

Lots are 56' x 100'. Cost of most lots \$1175.00. There is an extra frontage on all lots because all roads are county approved 50' rights-of-way. This gives all lots about 10' more space to the roads. You have no road maintenance.

Lots: May be financed at 7% simple interest, down payment of \$200.00 and payments of \$15.00 per month, which includes interest. Payments to be paid every 4 months or \$60.00 every 4 months.

Warranty deed furnished on all lots. You pay the recording charges.

#### **BETMAR ACRES CLUB:**

It is compulsory to join Betmar Acres Club. This provides streetlights and recreation. This also protects all buyers against undesirable elements and if buyer resells, this is still in effect. All people must be acceptable to join Betmar Acres Club. There is a monthly charge for sum of \$3.00 (per lot). Fees are to be paid once a year.

#### **RECREATION**

Betmar Acres Club has over 40 acres of recreation facilities for parks, lakes, clubhouses, picnic areas, shuffleboard courts, and horse shoe courts, etc. Over 100 spaces are involved with 0 miles of county roads on 200 acres. Golf course is complete. Some shuffleboard courts under cover. One clubhouse has 8000 sq. ft. with coffee shop.

#### **WATER:**

Water will be sold by Betmar Acres Water Co. for \$4.52 per month. If water privilege is abused, lots may be metered on option of Water Company.

Betmar Acres management feels we have one of the finest locations in Florida for adult living. We have lakes, woods, high and dry lots and plenty of room. Our lakes have over 1000 big oak trees for picnics, fishing, walking and plenty of room for bike riding. Betmar Acres is a quiet community, set apart, and yet located in Zephyrhills, by shopping centers, Civic Clubs and churches. The purest water in the world is here. All yearly costs for club and water are \$95.00 per year. These rates can only change with the cost of living index, starting Jan. 1, 1967, which then goes for five years. At this time the "cost of living" is added and stays the same for another five years, and continues this

Mailing Address: BETMAR ACRES  
Hwy 54  
West Zephyrhills, Florida 33599

## **LAND ACQUISITION AND PROPERTIES**

- 1965:** Mel Meengs purchases 200 acres of farmland from Byron and Bessie Hill. Three more adjacent acres purchased from Mr. and Mrs. White.
- 1966:** First plot recorded with 69 lots known as Betmar Acres
- 1967:** Betmar Acres, Unit 1, 18 more lots were added. Betmar Acres, Unit 2, was recorded with 72 more lots for sale. This includes Betmar Drive to Seventh Avenue and west to Lakewood. Lakes and canals were dug. Land was cleared for construction of Clubhouse 2 and White Golf Course, which opened in 1968.
- 1969:** Meengs, Sprinkle and Quimby purchase 165 acres from Dean Dairy, they named this parcel Lake Betmar Estates. Area from Allen (former Mandan) to Dean Dairy road was purchased. Originally the recreational area of the park was 45 acres, including the White course. This became 65 acres when the Blue Course was built.
- 1970:** Request for swimming pool was made and parcel of land was set aside until financial and legal provisions were met.
- 1971:** Lake Betmar Estates was added to the park.
- 1972:** Unit 6 was platted, originally intended for recreational vehicles so were smaller than the rest. Because they were not up to county specifications, they were never accepted into the county road system. The homes in this unit assess themselves to pay for road upkeep.
- 1975:** Ed Lake made first map showing streets and lot numbers. This was redone in 1977 and updated several times.
- 1977:** (November 3) Mr. Meengs sold park, to Betmar Owners and is now called Betmar Acres Club, Inc. Owners took possession January 23, 1978. This purchase included recreational properties, drainage ponds and adjacent lands of 40 acres at \$125,000. The property included Betmar Acres, lake Betmar Estates and Betmar Estates # 3, 4, 5. Owners also purchased back 9 land for \$185,000.
- 1978:** Betmar purchased two acres located at north end of Allen Street (picnic area) and 1 ½ acre of clear land on north border of golf course for \$3500 per acre, Street lighting established, volleyball court built beside West Lakewood Drive
- 1981:** Water and Sewer facilities sold to Mr. Turco by Meengs and water meters installed on each home in the park. Permit granted for new golf course.
- 1982:** Golf Club Land Acquisition Golf Club Land Acquisition project took pledges from residents to purchase the land with goal of \$200,000
- 1983:** Land for Blue golf course purchased for \$200,000, Ground breaking for Blue golf course January 13, 1983, Lights installed on 54 entrance.



- 1983:** Merger of Betmar Acres and Betmar Village was voted on at a general meeting. This agreement included Clubhouse 3, six shuffle courts and six acres of land surrounding clubhouse, plus two houses. The 200 unsold lots (200 at that time) had to pay Betmar Acres \$1300 or 13% of the selling price of the lot and no more than 18 lots could be sold each year. Mr. Meengs transferred the remaining lots to Betmar and the state required that a water run-off basin be built, which is the ditch just north of park area on Apache.
- 1984:** New golf course (Blue) opened in spring for limited play. Gateway and paved entrance from SR54 to Flint Street was provided by the Bank. Gatekeeper became resident of the house next of the fence on Flint St.
- 1985:** Mr. Meengs offered to sell Betmar Utilities water rights to the park but offer was rejected. Betmar Drive 54 Entrance directory updated.
- 1986:** Land acquisition from Mr. Meengs of 12 ½ acres bordered on south by the Golf Course and west by Allen Road for \$142,500. New directory on Betmar Drive.
- 1988:** Street name changes
- 1990:** Land freed up when Betmar Utilities hooked up to Pasco County sewer.
- 1992:** Money was appropriated to design and build a miniature golf course and to select a place for the construction.
- 1993:** 16.5 acres adjoining Betmar was purchased.
- 1996:** Impact fee for new homes in unincorporated developments rose to \$4000 per unit.
- 1997:** 35 acres purchased from Robert Sprinkle and his mother for \$450,000. 30 lots were developed and sold for a revenue of \$660,000, which covered the purchase price and development of the 30 lots and road (Lakota Street) Summer resurfacing of all county roads in Betmar, walkway around Lake Betmar was paved for \$10,000, Lake Betmar deepened to allow better pass-through for run-off from north and west, levee and pass through tube was installed to separate it into two areas 1997. To improve and enlarge the golf course, 35 acre Sprinkle property was purchased for \$425,000 and a two plus acre parcel was purchased from Mr. Amon for \$27,800 to provide access to the new Blue golf course from the back nine. Both parcels now make up the new addition. Memorial Walkway built.
- 1999:** Initiation fee of \$500 assessed on each property transferred to a new owner, final authority was given by Pasco County to proceed with the sale of lots for homes on the former Sprinkle property. All lots have been sold and final disposition of funds realized. Gold Golf course is open for play.

- 2001:** Kay Avenue reconnected after sewer plant removed.
- 2004:** Land acquisition started in August was finalized in December for 5 acres that border on Jodi, Kimela and Kiowa. Vote to charge owners of vacant lots \$165 annual fee was passed and later this year was rescinded.
- 2005:** Memorial Walkway built, Strand fountain \$8000
- 2007:** No Fishing, no Swimming and No Trespassing signs put up at ponds. Park fees not keeping up with operation cost due to CPI index limit \$23/year

## **UNIT #6 ROAD ASSOCIATION**

What is Unit #6? Unit #6 is the original part and oldest part of Betmar Acres. What is the Unit 6 road association? Under the restrictive covenants covering unit 6 in Betmar acres, which consist of Lots #535 through #723, the owners of said lots elect residents of the Unit 6 area to a board which administrates the maintenance of the private roads in Unit #6. The reason the roads in Unit 6 are private, is because they did not meet minimum retirements for a public street. Basically the dwellings sit too close to the roadway. A more graphic description of unit #6 is as follows: all the following streets are a part of unit #6, Shirley Circle, Veronica St., Karen St, Jo St south of 8th Ave, Lois Ave west of Flint St, and Sandra Ave west of Flint St.

Unit 6 was born in 1971, and is recorded in the Pasco County (Dade City, FL) record Book 590, page 47. The first meeting of the unit 6 Board was on September 17, 1975. The elected officers at that time were, George Bass, President, C. W. Grandy, Treasurer, and Pauline Rossignol, Secretary.

The current Board members are Doug Horne, President, Jim Mahler, Vice President, Sue Mahler, Treasurer, Jim Mahler, Trustee, Don Dickey, Trustee and the position of Secretary is currently open.

All property owners in Unit 6, own a portion or all of the roadway adjacent to their lots, and all lot owners pay an annual fee for road maintenance.

The last major paving project was in June 1990, when all 4874 feet of unit 6 roads were completely resurfaced by L. S. Wilson Asphalt paving for the total cost of \$29,800  
It's been 20 years, so some time in the near future Unit 6 is anticipating resurfacing the roads again.

President

Doug Horne

## BETMAR BUILDINGS

**1965: Farmhouse** was included in first land purchased. Meengs family lived here.

The caretaker's home was the **original office** and is now **Betmar Realty** on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**1966: Original Clubhouse 1** which is now the **Library** on Betmar Drive, 1360 square feet, cement block construction. Originally, in the front was a desk and a few shelves of magazines and books to lend out. Pool tables were in the back room.

**1983:** Remodeled and enlarged when office moved to Lakewood. Book information was put into a new system or order by librarians

**1998:** The information was computerized, new hours 10:00-3:00

**2003:** New bike rack, **2004:** Shingle roof replaced, **2007:** Remodeled

**2011:** New roof and parking repaved

**1969: Clubhouse 2** with kitchen facilities was built by Mel Meenges, assisted by Betmar residents, 11,964 Square Feet.

**Kitchen: 1984:** Kitchen remodeled adding dishwasher, exhaust over stove, new refrigerators, cupboards, and sinks

**1989:** 20 foot extension added to kitchen

**2001:** Kitchen renovation with walk-in cooler and freezer

**2002:** Phase 2 remodeling, stainless steel kitchen, new ovens, commercial cleaner

**Stage: 1982-1983:** remodeled

**1992:** enlarged and completely renovated

**Clubhouse: 1983:** New ceiling

**1990:** remodeled and new restroom constructed adding needed space to main meeting room

**1991:** Covered walkway added between clubhouse and restrooms

**1993:** New sound system, stained glass window

**1996:** New floor

**2005:** Generator installed

**2010:** Floor retiled

**1977:** The first Golf Clubhouse was built west of the Shuffle Courts .This was later called **Clubhouse #1** and in **1991** was used for playing cards and shooting pool. It is possible that this name was given to it at the time the old Clubhouse #1 became the Library and the card playing was moved. This was used by the Game Club until it was torn down in **2003** because of black mold.

**Around 1978: Shuffleboard Courts**, first four courts behind Clubhouse 1(present Library) and six next to Clubhouse 2, **2004** remodeled the front area of courts, enlarging the office, enlarging storage room and adding workshop.

**1980: Clubhouse 2 Annex** This is a \$35,000 expansion of Clubhouse 2 which was paid off in 1984. Piano, monitors installed in **1996**. Floor retiled **2010**.

**1980: Clubhouse 3** built, 3200 square feet, cement block construction, shingle roof replaced 2004 square feet, steel frame with steel siding and roof panels, new air conditioner **1996**, additions made in **2002** and **2005**, Generator installed in **2009**, floor retiled **2010**, parking repaved in **2011**.

**1983: Security building, garage and office for Acres** 1920 Square Feet, Office was moved here from Clubhouse #2. Roof was replaced in **2004** Computer Lab added in Security Office **2006**

**1984: Golf Clubhouse**, 3312 square feet, cement block construction, new golf storage building completed and old one remodeled to store equipment for park maintenance **1984**, shingle roof replaced **2004**, New building to cover pump to water fairways **1994**, , last of three additions completed in **2005**

**1987: Maintenance Barn**, 8416 square feet, steel frame with steel siding and roof panels, additions made in **1992** and **2005**, giving more room for inventory of park equipment and What-Not sale.

**1988: Little Theater's building** behind the kitchen to store props and equipment

**1992: Covered Bridge** on Lakewood called the **Kissing Bridge** was built, painted in **2010**

**1994 or 1995: Gazebo** by the Covered Bridge built in memory of Jack Wander. Painted in **1998** and in **2010**.

**2005: Apache Clubhouse** on Apache Street built, 4665 square feet, cement block construction, Hurricane proof **2004** groundbreaking, March **2005** dedication, Generator installed in **2009**.

## **BETMAR REALTY**

In the early days when Melvin and Betty Meengs wanted someone to sell their lots and eventually homes in the park, they hired a gentleman by the name of William "Bill" Young. Later on, he would be instrumental in influencing the Meengs to find partners to purchase and expand the park with the annexation of Lake Betmar Estates.

Lucille Bentley and her husband Charles ran Chelsea Title Company in Dade City in the 70's. After she sold that business, she came to work with Mr. Young. She was from Kentucky and when Bill was ready to retire in the late 70's, he introduced her to another Kentuckian named Howard Likins. Lucille became a broker for Lucille Bentley Real Estate and had Miles Moffitt and Howard Likins as salesmen. Later, Ruth Wright who is still a park resident (Ruth Schofield) would join them in sales and continue to work there until her own retirement in 1993.

In 1984 Mrs. Bentley retired and sold the business to Howard Likins. Ruth Wright stayed and the next year Debra Likins, Howard's daughter, returned to Florida from Atlanta, GA. to help in the office. In the late 80's Howard hired Verna Thorton (also still a park resident). Ruth, Debra, Verna and Howard all sold Betmar properties and serviced lot mortgage payments for Betmar developers until Howard's passing in 1989. Delores Sleziak also helped in the office during those years.

In 1987 Mel and Betty Meengs, sold the property and building of the current real estate office to Howard Likins who, with the Trustee's permission, changed the name of "Howard Likins Real Estate" to "Betmar Realty Corporation" and added the back office to the existing building.

Debra Likins took over as active broker in 1989 working with Ruth and Verna and later with Marvin Matheson, current owner of K & M Travel.

In the 90's Barbara Bond and later Gloria Acciard, both still residents of the park came on board. Gerald McClure also joined the procession of agents that led to the current staff of Debra Likins, Broker, Gloria Acciard, Sales, John Cassidy, property management and Christopher Mills, office manager.

Many thanks to all the capable, honest and hardworking individuals who preceded us in serving Betmar's real estate needs over the years.

## **BETMAR LIBRARY**

It all began in the late 1960's, when the building we now know as Clubhouse 2, was completed and put into use. The original clubhouse, Clubhouse #1, which is now the Betmar Library, was basically used after this time by the men folk for card playing. Occasionally, residents would bring reading materials for others to enjoy and books and magazines were exchanged. This gave William Webster, who lived near the Clubhouse, the idea that this building would make a good library. In the early 1970's, an old desk, a chair and a freestanding bookcase were placed in the small room at the front of the building while the two larger rooms held the card players. Some books and magazine, donated by residents, were added and the Betmar Library was born. It was a welcomed addition to the park and started to grow immediately. The library door was never locked and residents came in any time to get or return the books.

Record keeping was at first simple in the new library. If you borrowed a book, you were on your honor to write your name and borrowed book title on a piece of paper. When, and if you returned it, you crossed your name off the list and placed the book back in the bookcase. As more and more materials were donated, more space was needed. Shelves were built along the walls of the room to house the growing numbers of books, magazines and jigsaw puzzles. More accurate record keeping and book organization was needed. A new check-in and check-out system was devised to keep track of the burgeoning books, regular library hours were scheduled and volunteers selected to man the library so as to have it run efficiently. An Executive Board was elected to conduct library business and to manage it. This Board is elected on a yearly basis.

The one small original room was not large enough by the early '90's and the women volunteers were not happy with the men's smoke and ashes left behind after the poker playing so the card playing was moved and the library expanded to all three of the building's rooms. Still using paper and pencil, borrowed books were returned in one room where names were removed from the list manually by a volunteer, while another returned the book to the shelves, which now had some organization. If something else was to be borrowed, this was done in another room where the information was handwritten on yellow paper. Volunteers worked daily to keep the operation running smoothly and donations remained the chief source of books and other lending items.

In 1998, we put away the pencils and paper records. We moved into the age of electronics when a computer was purchased through donations. Volunteers threatened to quit while two people, namely, Tom Donelon and Patricia Herndon, worked to exhaustion to develop a way to get this computer to collect and store all the necessary data. They succeeded and since that time, all library data has been recorded on the computer. Recently we have continued this data collection and library management with the help of our yearly subscription to a library program named Concourse.

In 2001, the outside book drop was purchased through a donation. Our growth continued by leaps and bounds through donations and monies that were given yearly to supplement our expenditures by Betmar Acres Club, Inc. Although we no longer catalog and lend magazines, the Betmar Library lends an array of books in both regular and large print, a huge selection of paperback books of every genre, many jigsaw puzzles, VHS tapes, talking books on audio cassettes and most recently DVD's and talking books on CD's.

A major remodeling project was undertaken in 2007. At this time, all of the building's windows were replaced through a donation making them much more efficient. A wooden floor was placed under the check-out desk; some old unused pipes were removed completely while others were upgraded. A lavatory was put in a room that had previously housed the puzzles. New shelves were added wherever possible and the material was reorganized leaving a small backroom for material storage and book processing. Also during this time, the Computer Club gave the library another computer for the sole use of the residents of Betmar during library hours. This has become a much-used feature of the Betmar Library.

As the old saying goes, "We have come a long way, Baby". All Betmar residents should take pride in these accomplishments and what their library has become. The question is, however, where do we go from here? There are always new shelves to be built and added here and there, but new space in the library is becoming a premium. We hope that somewhere in our future is a new facility with lots more space to better serve our approximately 1,600 patrons and an ever growing number of residents in Betmar.

## The Sixties

The purchase of Betmar started with a "U" turn on Highway 54 in 1965. Mr. Mel Meengs saw the land where Betmar is now located and began an investigation. He contacted the realtor Bill Young to find out if the property was available and within a half hour he had purchased 200 acres from Byron and Bessie Hill. The land was a cattle ranch with a farmhouse occupied by the owners and later by the Meengs family. The only other building on the property was the home of the caretaker, which is now the Betmar Realty.

Mel soon took George Sprinkle into partnership. Mr. Meengs and Mr. Sprinkle wanted Betmar to be a "Destination Place" where residents would want to come year after year. They wanted to have activities to draw people together socially. The clubhouse was built and the Betmar residents were encouraged to initiate activities that were enjoyable to them.

During the sixties some of the first clubs and activities were Hymn Sings, Bible Study, Hobby Club, Horse Shoes, Ceramics, Macramé, Knitting, Sewing, Physical Education, Florida Living, Art, and Contract Bridge. The activities included Coffee Hour, Hobby Club, Saturday night pancake suppers and monthly potluck.

### JUST WEST OF TOWN—

## New Mobile Park, Home Development Is Begun

Streets are being graded for paving in Betmar Acres, a new mobile park and home site development on the former W. Byron Hill property on Hill Drive off West 54.

Melvin Meengs and Robert Sprinkle, both of Tampa, bought the 197-acre tract for an undisclosed amount from Mrs. Hill. The transaction was handled by William M. Young, broker, through Zephyrhills Multiple Listing.

The section of the property be-

ing developed lies east of the Hill residence along West 54 and extends northward, the boundary line of the entire tract being within 10 acres of Geiger Road. Some 19 acres are included in the section where work on approximately 49 home sites is underway.

In due course the back part of the property may be dredged out for two lakes and a connecting canal in the vicinity of which 5-acre home sites are planned.

**Article from Zephyrhills News 4/21/1966**



## **Clubs and Events Beginning in the Seventies**

### **Clubs and Organizations**

- **1970:** Dance Club, Golf Club, Kitchen Band, Vespers
- **1971:** Fire and Rescue (until 2003), Shuffleboard Club
- **1972:** Chorus, Adult and Community Education Program with 40 instructors certified by the State of Florida.
- **1975:** Dinner Club, Library
- **1976:** Ice Cream Social began
- **1978:** Singles Club, New York Picnic, New England Picnic, Book Review Club
- **1979:** Hospitality Club, Swim Club, Volleyball

### **Activities**

- **1970s:** First Hobby Club Bazaar
- **1972:** First Bingo Machine from Hobby Club
- **1974:** First monthly Bulletin, one page schedule of events
- **1975:** Santa Claus Dance, First Telephone Directories, First Security program and Patrol car, First street map
- **1976:** Betmar's First Birthday Celebration
- **1978:** Travel Films, Park Bus Trip
- **1977:** New England Picnic
- **1979:** Name Tags, Volleyball Program, Defensive Driving Classes

### **Events**

- **1976:** Became Not For Profit Owners
- **1978:** (January 23) Bought Owners park from Meengs

## **Clubs and Events Beginning in the Eighties**

### **Clubs and Organizations**

- **1980s** Latin Dancing,
- **1980:** Betmar Bridge, Physical Fitness, Swingers Club, Hospitality Committee, Medical Self-Help Classes
- **1981:** Little Theater, Organ Club, Women's Golf, Beginning Bridge
- **1983-1999:** Outreach Program
- **1984:** Friendship Club
- **1985:** Diabetics Group
- **1986:** Computer Training Classes, Vespers
- **1987:** Scrabble, Spanish Classes, Stained Glass Club, Senior Olympics
- **1988:** Bocce Ball, ABC Shuffleboard
- **1989:** Duplicate Bridge, Clogging, Line Dancing, Exercise Classes, Latin Dancing

### **Activities**

- **1980s:** First Pool opened, Betmar license plates designed by Ed Lake
- **1980:** Wisconsin Picnic, Ohio Picnic, Movie Night, No Solicitation Stickers
- **1981:** First annual Style Show, First What Not sale
- **1982:** Outreach Program to assist families, Hobby Cookbook, Fire Brigade
- **1983:** Michigan Picnic, Memorial Fund set up
- **1984:** Floating Christmas Trees
- **1986:** Chorus First Concert, Second Cookbook
- **1987:** Senior Olympics
- **1989:** Aluminum cans and newspapers go to Meals on Wheels, Bumper Stickers for Betmar, Cancer Unit

### **Events**

- **1981:** Ed Lake designed Betmar Logo and secured official copyright, Water Meters installed on every home, Cable TV available
- **1983:** Merge Betmar Acres and Betmar Village, Security moves to it's own building
- **1988:** Street name changes (see chart)

1988 Street Name Changes because of duplicate street names in Zephyrhills

<u>Old Street Name</u>	changed to	<u>New Street Name</u>
7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue (West of 1 <sup>st</sup> Street)		8 <sup>th</sup> Avenue
Allen Street (N.W. Section)		Apache Street
Allen Street (North of 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave.)		Amanda Street
Beth Avenue (Eastern Section)		Beverly Avenue
Beth Court		Beth Avenue
Betmar Court		Ava Court
Camelia Circle		Camelia Court
Carol Street (South Section)		Shirley Circle
Cherokee Street		Cheyenne Street
Circle Street		Curran Street
Dina Avenue		Dina Drive
Dina Avenue (West Section)		Eunice Drive
Grace Avenue (Eastern Section)		Eileen Avenue
Hibiscus Circle		Hibiscus Court
Jean Street		Joyce Street
Jodi Circle		Loretta Court
Joe Street		Jo Street
Kay Avenue (Flint St. to Betmar Dr.)		Cora Avenue
Lake Drive		Strand Drive
Lakewood Circle		Sparta Circle
Lakewood Court		McBain court
Lakewood Drive North/South		Flint Street
Lakewood Drive East/West		Lakewood Drive
Mohawk Circle		Navaho Court
Mohawk Street (North Section)		Mandan Street
Plant Circle		Niles Drive
Plant Circle court		Niles Drive
Powhattan Circle		Arapaho Court
Powhattan Street (North Section)		Dakota Street
Shirley Street		Shirley Circle
Sioux Avenue		Kiowa Avenue
Vera Street (South Section)		Veronica Street
Viki Avenue		Shirley Circle
Waters Street (North Section)		Benton Street

## Clubs and Events in the Nineties

### Clubs and Organizations

- **1990s:** Cribbage, Euchre, Water Aerobics
- **1991:** Game Club
- **1992:** Calligraphy, Co-ed Softball, Kissing Bridge, Gazebo, Gazebo Swing,
- **1993:** Betmar Writers Club
- **1996:** Dart Club
- **1997:** Garden Club, Computer Club, Jam Session
- **1998:** Tennis Club
- **1999:** Volunteer connection, TOPS, Women's Veterans Social Club

### Events

- **1990s:** Half Basketball Court built by Larry Eaton, 2000 Full Court
- **1990:** Christmas Tree Lighting, Ohio and West Virginia Picnic, Blood Bank
- **1992:** Lighted house numbers, Picture IDs
- **1993:** Chicken Gazette is created, Pop Tabs for children with cancer
- **1994:** Alligator Chronicles, Ice Cream Social, Royalty rides in cars in parade, Ice Cream Social, Teenie Weenie, Breakfast Club
- **1999:** Betmar Memorial Service

## **Clubs and Events in First Decade of 2000**

### **Clubs and Organizations**

**2000:** Genealogy, Bell Ringers for Salvation Army, Horse Shoe Club and Pit, Hoe Down

**2001:** Camper Group, Table Tennis, Bocce Ball, Summer Evening Shuffleboard League, Book Review Club, Library starts WOW (Words on Wheels), Program for Shut-Ins, Tennis Club, Tennis Club Summer Movies

**2002:** Sisters Club, Tai Chi (until 2006)

**2003:** Auditorium Club, First Annual Betmar Opry, "Need a Call" program

**2004:** Women's Bible Study, AARP Driving Class, Military Retirees Coffee

**2005:** Beginners Art Group, Video Production Team

**2006:** WIIP (When Injury or Illness Prevails), Women's Veterans Group, Tole and Decorative Painting

**2008:** Organ & Music changes to Music & Entertainment

**2009:** Pinochle begins

### **Activities**

**2000:** Michigan Picnic, Millennium Cookbooks, First Memorial Service

**2001:** 1st Tennis Annual Fundraiser, Betmar Walk and Bike, Betmar ID cards, Summer Movies by Tennis Club

**2002:** First Game Club Championship, Bocce Ball Championship, Checker Tournament, Miniature Golf Championship, 9/11 Tree and Plaque Dedication, New Pool, First Annual Christmas Homes Tour.

**2004 :** First Annual Horseshoe Tournament

**2005:** Alligators on Golf Course, Betmar helps 5th Graders at Zephyrhills West construct a pool garden, First Annual Quilt Trunk Show

**2006:** Battery recycling, Tennis Club pig roast

**2007:** First Flu Clinic

**2008:** Volunteer Connection holds its first Newcomers Orientation, Health-O-Rama

**2009:** First International Single Invitational Tournament Shuffleboard

**2010:** Larry Martin's "In Their Own Words" Veteran program

### **Events**

**2001:** Survey to determine proof 80% of Betmar are 55 or older, 75 couples renew vows at Gazebo

**2007:** No Fishing, No Swimming and No Trespassing signs at ponds

## 2010 BETMAR OFFICERS

President	Harry Taylor
Vice President	Jimmie stokes
Secretary	Carol Kelly
Treasurer	Dick Ziegenfuss
Activities	Bryan Toll
Vice Chairman	Dee Payne
Communications	Linda LaFayette
Vice Chairman	June Wentworth
Finance Chairman	Dean Wells
Vice Chairman	Lew Hughes
Properties Chairman	Harold Murray
Vice Chairman	Ed Bosley
Res. Corp Agent	Larry Stokes
Security Chief	Glen Marcum
Vice Chief	Skip Miller
Vice Chief	Ken Curtis
Vice Chief	Harry Taylor
Betmar Acres Club	
Chairman	Linda LaFayette
Vice Chairman	Jimmie Stokes
Trustees	
Chairman	Bill Howard
Vice Chairman	Alberta Courts
Treasurer	Dick Mason
Trustee	Jerry Chapman
Trustee	Debbie Dodge

### **Betmar Owners, Inc.**

- Created in 1976 as a non-profit corporation
- All home owners are members
- Provides continuity of park operation
- Establishes a tax exempt character
- Provides general guidance to all clubs, each sponsoring a recreational activity
- Holds general informational meetings regarding park operations
- Makes reports to membership concerning activity functions
- Gives residents opportunity to respond to reports

### **Betmar Acres Club, Inc.**

- Non-profit corporation
- Mission: to own, manage, and operate acquired facilities
- Has Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
- Directed by Board of three Trustees elected by Board of Directors
- Trustees have a three year staggered term, one new trustee each year
- Board of Trustees has President, Vice President and Treasurer
- Duties of Trustees: Employ office and park maintenance workers
  - Supervise operations of office and park
  - Collect all park dues
  - Provide insurance on all buildings, equipment and furnishings
  - Pay all taxes
  - Carry out the business aspects of entire park facilities

## **Bingo**

In 1972, the Hobby Club reported that they purchased the first Bingo machine. In 1992, Larry Eaton, nicknamed "Bingo King" was named the Bingo chairman.

Our average attendance every Monday night is 155 players, bringing in a very substantial amount of donations to our totally volunteer park. We average 45 volunteers each week to operate a very efficient business. There are six to eight administrative volunteers. Twelve to fifteen work on the line making change, selling the Bingo papers, daubers, and pull tabs. Ten to twelve volunteers operate the kitchen, making sandwiches, baking cakes, cooking hot dogs and waiting on customers. A rotating cleanup crew volunteers every Monday night to get the clubhouse ready for the next day's activities.



## **Beginners Art Class**



Beginners Art Class began in 2005 when two women approached Barbara Jacobbe and asked her to teach art. Joan Connell obtained permission for the day and time slot for the class. This class first met in October in Apache Clubhouse but soon outgrew the space and moved to Clubhouse 3. The goal was to teach art in a simple way and to have fun learning. The students have a yearly Art Show in March to showcase their artwork and to be encouraged by the residents of Betmar.

Each week, Barbara gives a demonstration of the picture the students will paint. She concentrates on going back to first grade, using shapes and color, stressing that not everyone can draw, but everyone can paint and have fun doing it. The weekly fee of \$1 goes to buying art supplies and pays for the use of the hall. As a group project, the class has painted many backdrop scenes for shows in Betmar. The class continues to grow each year.



## **BETMAR ART GROUP**



The Pioneers of Betmar Art Group were Helen Burke, Dolores Fritz, Elizabeth White, Helen Wee, Delores Sleziak, Myrtle Dent, Earl Crandall, Raymond Johnson, Leola (Lee) VanderKam, Alice Kellogg, Madeline Forbs , Lillian Grienier and Carlo Bravo. As the years progressed, many more residents joined our group. Sara Lee Thompson and Dolores Fritz taught pencil sketching, colored pencil, water color pencil and oils.

Our activities include our yearly Art Show in conjunction with the Friendship Club's cake and ice cream social. New members are always welcome.

## **TOLE AND DECORATIVE PAINTING**

Tole and Decorative Painting Classes have been held in Betmar since about 2006. It started with a group of people who were interested in this art and was taught by Jane Shuman, an accomplished painter and teacher from Maine.

Not having an instructor for the year 2009-2010, the group has continued to meet on Monday nights to share ideas, to paint, and enjoy!

Tole Painting is an old art form. Remember seeing it on tin cans and tin trays. It is now done with acrylic paints and is a most enjoyable pastime.



### **Friday Morning Bible Study**

Bible Study was one of the early groups formed in Betmar. There is no information about this in previous History Books. Reverend Don Chrysler taught the Bible Study for about twenty years. Seth and Mary Cotton have led the current Bible Study for the past eight years, starting in about 2002. Around fifteen attend.

### **Women's Bible Study**

A Women's Bible Study began in 2004 in the home of Mary Ann Gifford. The ladies meet from 9:00-10:00 on Wednesday mornings. Half of the hour is spent reading and discussing the Scriptures. The other half is spent watching a video of the same passage, which brings the Scripture to life. In 2010 we had 12 ladies attending.

### **Vespers**

Vespers was started in 1979 but "Hymn Sings" were a part of Betmar from the very beginning. They started in the Clubhouse and then were moved to the Annex when it was built in 1980. Taylor and Margaret Todd, Bill Jones, Eloise Bullock, Georgia Collette, Neva Arthur and husband were all part of the group there. They enjoyed sharing their love of the Lord and their various talents. During this time Hymn books were purchased. Three sisters led the service in the 80s. Cookies and coffee were added afterwards to promote a time of fellowship.

Vespers then moved to Clubhouse #3. Bob and Barbara Lockhart became leaders with Peggy Sluiter on the piano. Sandwiches, cookies and coffee were part of the afterglow fellowship. Ministers were asked to share a speaking time in addition to the hymns and specials. Next, U.B. and Edna Weber became our leaders.

Following the Webers in 1999 or 2000, Myrtle and Reggie Miller stepped in as leaders. They added more chorus books. The Chrysler families brought their horns, singing talents and teaching lessons. During the Miller's leadership, a Vesper board was formed to help share the work of Vespers. They made plans to set up the hall, prepare food and beverages, select the programs and clean up afterwards. Vespers meets every Sunday afternoon from 4:30 and fellowship is over by 6:00 pm. Over the years the board has changed but faithfulness, love, enthusiasm for music, fellowship, and witnessing to God's care has consistently brought new people to serve.

## **BETMAR CHORUS**

The Betmar Chorus was started in 1972 by William B. Jones, father of the present director, Mary Margaret Trice. In 1989, at age 85 he turned over the baton to Shirley Ziemer and Betty Goulette and Val Konert took over the leadership of the chorus in 1993 and 1997 respectively. Mary Margaret Trice directed the group in 1996 until it was necessary to take medical leave. She returned in the fall of 1998. Accompanists for the chorus over the years were Eloise Britton Bullock, Shirley Ziemer, Joan Reyner—now deceased, Debbie Edwards, Dee Schultz, Lois Weber, Nancy Westrack, Bev Petteerelli, and Linda LaFayette. Linda became assistant director in 2005 and co-director in 2008. Doug Townshend began assisting at rehearsals and directing in 2009.

The organization grew and in 1984 officers were elected. Members raised funds to buy music by holding ice cream socials, until the project grew too large. In 1986 they decided to sell tickets for a spring concert which has become an annual event. In 1995, it became necessary to put on two concerts to accommodate the audience and in 1999, a Wednesday matinee was added.

The choir ranges in age from 55-94 with an average age of 74. It has continued to grow with officers and librarians taking on added responsibilities. From October through April the group meets on Monday afternoons from 12:45 to 3:00 pm and in an optional sectional practice on Wednesday mornings. For several years a selected small ensemble group rehearsed on Tuesday evenings and prepared pop and contemporary tunes for the concert and other special events.

The chorus started with about two dozen members and presently has 120 members. The members come from 14 states and 2 provinces of Canada. They perform in three spring concerts, the Tree Lighting Service the first Sunday of December and the annual Memorial Service which the park holds on the third Sunday in January. There are no auditions and the choir is open to any residents and renters from Betmar who enjoy singing.



## **CREATIVE WRITERS CLUB**

Clyde Schofield, author, lecturer, and Pearl Harbor survivor, gathered 12 interested writers in the Library on January 6, 1991. The group became officially known as the Betmar Writer's Club in 1993, when a Constitution and bylaws were accepted by the Betmar Board. Under Schofield's guidance, three books, collections of writings by club members, were published and sold for \$5.00.

Nick Klak substituted as Leader during much of 1995. Schofield resigned in 1996, after marrying his student, Ruth Wright! Marjorie Root took over as teacher, April 15, 1996, and served until 2000. Louise Gifford volunteered to keep the class going. She served as Facilitator until her death in 2006.

The Club moved from the Library to Club House 1 sometime before 1997. Later, meetings were held in Clubhouse 3. In 2002, we officially changed our name to CREATIVE WRITERS CLUB.

In 2005, when the new Apache Club House was completed we were assigned to meet in the Blue Room at 9 a.m. on Monday mornings from November through March. Mary Haggins served as Facilitator for 2006-2007. Published poet Joyce Miller became Facilitator in the fall of 2007 until 2010.

Gifford encouraged members to profile long-time residents of Betmar. These interviews are filed in a notebook, which is kept in the Betmar Library. Another project is our yearbook. Class members submit a few pages of their favorite writings. Gail Tracy compiles these into souvenir booklets.

Betsy Jones Hayba, Secretary



Creative Writer's Club

## **CALLIGRAPHY**

Calligraphy is the Art of beautiful printing created by the early monks. This consists of many alphabets and requires precise practicing but is rewarding. Ruby Coe conducted classes at Zephyrhills for adults in 1986. In 1992, Betty White started classes in Betmar, which continued until 2010. To start this hobby, all you need is a felt tipped Calligraphy pen, size 2.5 which fills the space between lines on a legal pad. The pen is held at a 45 degree angle for the Italic alphabet. After you learn the lower case and upper case, you are ready to make your own cards and write in a beautiful script

## **BETMAR BRIDGE**

Bridge began here around 1980 with one table in Clubhouse 1, which now is the library. It began with \$.10 per person and it soon increased to \$.25. The location of the games moved to another building which now has been torn down.

As time went on, Bridge moved to Clubhouse #3 and the fee became \$.50 in the year 2000. The players continued to increase and we had many tables on Monday afternoons for ladies. We now include men. We also opened Wednesday night Bridge to men and women with lots of players and plenty of fun.

From the beginning of Betmar, Bridge has been popular for many people and classes have been held for many years. Marge Root was one of the first teachers, followed by Bob Maugher for 12 years. It still continues to be taught by John Chesebro, Ellie Withers, and Dick Quinlan. In the Apache Clubhouse, beginning Bridge classes are offered on Friday mornings and Brush-up Bridge on Friday afternoon.

Bridge continues to be a very popular game played in private homes in our park.



Playing Bridge in Clubhouse #2 in 2009

## Betmar Computer Club

The first Computer Club group consisted of six members who met at Mary Ongstad's home. Pat Herndon was the first president and she said the membership grew like a fire. They moved to Clubhouse #1, which has been torn down, moved to Clubhouse #3 and soon afterwards to Clubhouse #2. Most members then had a computer with Windows 95 and were very excited about learning this new technology.

Betmar User's Group or "Bug Club" is the website devoted to Betmar news. It can be found on the web at: [www.betmar.org](http://www.betmar.org) or just Google "Betmar Bug Club". This computer website was designed by Jim Bourque around 1998 and he is still maintaining it. Jim and Fred Grindle of 3Oaks Computer Service and Repair (which is gone now) decided it would be a good idea. Initially, it was an experiment because it is the first of its kind in the area. 3oaks provided this site free to Betmar. At first Jim used this site just for computer lessons and information for the Computer Club. Later, Sandy Lasko and Fred Fletcher began including Betmar News and pictures. Today, this website continues through Computers Unlimited. Jim is still the webmaster and provides up to date news about computer tips, Betmar News and photos.

In 2006 the computer lab with computers was added in the Security office. We now can have "hands on" training for computer members. SIG, Special Interest Groups, are taught by one of the instructors to small groups. We currently have about 200 members.



Computer Lab

## **CRIBBAGE CLUB**

Elsie and Syd Dunford started cribbage sometime in the 1990's. When they moved back to Canada, Louise and Kenny Leighton took this position. Around 2005, they decided that each month different people would be in charge. It has worked out very well this way. They meet every Thursday at 7:00 PM in Clubhouse #3 from November through April and all are welcome.

## **DART CLUB**

The Dart club was started in 1996 by George and Marge Broadbent in Clubhouse #1 with 38 members. The room in the clubhouse was so small that they played in two shifts.

On January 10, 1999 the Dart Club moved to the Annex with 11 boards mounted in cabinets. Rubber mats were purchased to keep darts from damaging the floors. The club has now grown to 100 league dart players.



Playing Darts in the Annex

Social darts still continued to grow and are played all year in the Annex. At the end of each season, the Dart Club holds a picnic.



First Dart Picnic outside Clubhouse 1 in 2000

## **Betmar Dance Club**

The Betmar Dance Club was organized in January 1970. During the seventies the Dance Club just had a Tuesday night dance. It later expanded to two nights a week for ballroom dancing. Later, Western Squares and cued Round dancing were added. Benefit dances are held to raise money. For Saturday Night "Table Dances" are held during the winter months, usually to celebrate a Holiday or special event.

In the early days of the Dance club, the Club was allowed to donate money they had earned towards various projects within the Park. The Dance club gave money towards the Rescue Squad, Meals on Wheels, for equipment for the clubhouse, and putting tile on the floor in Clubhouse #2. In the beginning, they danced on the cement! They also donated money towards the purchase of a new piano and for kitchen items. Today they donate money to Betmar Acres Board and they allot it as they see fit. We are very proud of the fact this club is able to donate a considerable amount each year.

Today, the Betmar Dance Club consists of Ballroom Dancing, Square Dancing, Clogging and Line Dancing. During various week days, there are Clogging and Line Dance lessons being given in Clubhouse #3. On Wednesdays, there are Square and Round Dance Lessons in the afternoon and Square Dancing in the evening. The Betmar Square Dancers are known as Betmar Belles and Beaus. The Square Dancers keep up a lively competition with other parks in the area, trying to have the biggest group in attendance at a dance.

Clogging and Line Dancing lessons are mainly for the enjoyment of those of us who live here in Betmar. We happily welcome a few of our neighbors from other parks who join us.

- **Ballroom Dancing**

Ballroom dances are held each Saturday night in clubhouse #2 from the last of October through the third week in April. There is always a New Year's Eve Ball. About every other week, the dance is a "Theme Dance". Themes are Hawaiian, Country, Easter, Christmas, Mardi Gras, Valentines, Canadian, Fifties, Halloween, costumes and dress.

In the nineties, there used to be rows of chairs in the back of the hall where people could sit and a few tables down the sides. Now we all sit at tables and chat, watch the dancers or dance. In the beginning, of the dance music was provided by two groups of residents-The Zephyrs and The Love Boat Band. Today, we hire music from the outside. Persons who are residents of Betmar cannot receive money for their work here because we are a Volunteer Park. Our Music Committee brings in a good variety of musicians and music.



The Dance Club Picnic is held each March. We have gone from hot dog and hamburger cookout to pizza and bring a dish to pass to our present Pot Luck dinner.



Ballroom Dancing 2005



First Square Dance Club 1982

- **Square Dancing**

Western Square Dancing started in Betmar around 1982-1983 with the first graduating class in April 1983. Western square dancing requires you to take lessons, unlike the old fashioned square dancing.

Frank Higgins brought this new type of dancing to Betmar and the first caller in Betmar was Dale Eddy. Ray and Edwena Roshong ran the club for many years and kept everyone dancing. At that time there were ten to twenty squares. Tom and Carol Kelly have been running the club for the past four years.

- **Line Dancing**

A woman named Vi started line dancing over 20 years ago. Dorothy Briedinger and Cam Keith took over and line dancing in Clubhouse #3 is still going strong. Bill Lodovice also teaches.



Clogging 2009



Line Dancing 2010

## **Friendship Club**

The Friendship Club held their first meeting in Clubhouse #3 on February 15, 1984. A slate of officers was elected and a set of by-laws was drafted. The object of the club is for people to become acquainted with others and increase their knowledge of Betmar and the programs and activities it has to offer. A potluck dinner is held on the last Monday of the month. For many years, the club hosted coffee hours twice a month. Each February they would sponsor an ice cream social and art exhibit. These are no longer held and by-laws were re-written in 2009 to reflect this change. The club still sponsors a monthly pot luck dinner which is open to everyone in the park.

The Friendship Club procures lighted house numbers. This project was first administered by Milt Zaagman, later by Bob Mauger and most recently by Wayne Clarkson.

## **BETMAR RED HATS**

In January 2002 fourteen ladies of a Wine and Friends group joined the Red Hat Society with Christa Russell as Founding Queen Mother of Vino Classics. As friends wanted to join, another group was formed. Co-Queen Dee Payne and Eva Pathic opened Canusa Ladies. October 2002 Pat Scott and her former queen from a large group in Michigan opened Crimson Gems with the same idea.

Sammye Burton Queen opened Sassy Classics with four neighbors; they became the third largest group. Pat Troia started the cinnabar Chapeaus. She created the birthday hat signs.

Crimson Chapeau Chicks was opened by Queen Pat Armendinger. She also created a Romeo group. {Spouses Retired Old Men Eating Out.}

Red Hat Mamas by Leatha Stone was the first permanent resident chapter. Z"Mad Hatters was the second. Sandy Lasko, their queen, was Duchess of Summer for four years.

Tea Totin" Classic Ladies, Rose Novak, Queen and Ruth Ravenwood, Queen of red Hat Cardinals, both wanted small chapters.

Sassy Survivors is a chapter exclusively for breast cancer survivors with members across the U.S.A., Africa and Australia, all wearing a pink feather in their red hats. At the present time we have 12 Red Hat Chapters in Betmar.

Pat Scott

## BETMAR GAME CLUB

Betmar Game Club was born in 1991 and lived initially in a building dubbed Clubhouse #1, with no bathrooms and no running water. This two room building had a back room known as the "Officer's Club" and a front room holding billiard tables.



A water cooler, a hoe, a shovel and a vacuum cleaner were purchased, a horseshoe pit added and the game club grew. In 2000, this paradise was condemned along with all its contents. In its' rebirth, the Betmar Game Club grew rapidly until today, when it definitely has evolved into a "not for males only" group offering numerous choices for retirement enjoyment.

Game Club members enjoy a game room with 3 pool tables, a shuffle board table, bumper pool table, and a multitude of games, puzzles and activities. In addition to usage of the clubhouse, members can play organized activities including but not limited to : Bocce Ball, Bunco, Chess, Dominoes, Pool shoot Outs, Chicago 8 Ball, Horseshoes, Ladies Penny Ante Poker, Ladies Pony Cards, LCR, Men's Cards, Scrabble and Table Tennis.



In

addition the Game Club holds fundraisers including three pizza making fundraisers and four card playing fundraisers, along with "Not for members only" fund days, Ladies' Day and open houses.

The Game Club also takes care of the min golf, keeping the course clean and in good repair for all to use. The mini golf was constructed in 1994. In 2006, a plaque was erected to honor Ralph Payne for all the hours he spent maintaining the mini golf course. Joe Pepitone did an exceptional job in Painting and maintaining the course. We also appreciate the fine job Marshall Wagner, Carl Blackwell and Jack Surbrook did in restoring one of the buildings.



Mini golf 2004



Ralph Payne 2006

The Zephyrhills Winter Horseshoe Pitching league has been in existence for approximately ten years. Presently, the League is comprised of nine teams which make up divisions I and II. Bemar is in Division II but we play the teams in both divisions. Each team has at least eight players.

The teams play about eleven competitive games during the season which begins in early December and ends in early March. About half the games are played at home. To qualify for League play, a team must have four Home Pits that are constructed in accordance with the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association's specifications.

Until 2007, Betmar had only two pits. At that time two more pits were constructed and the Betmar Horseshoe Pitching Team was formed. League get togethers for games are played on Wednesdays at 9:30. At the end of the season, the League has a barbeque and trophies and plaques are awarded. Betmar Team Captain Lis Bower, President of Game Club 2008-2010



## **BETMAR GARDEN CLUB**

The Betmar Garden Club developed when a group of people gathered at the Gazebo in 1997. It has evolved into an organized club with a “home” at Apache Clubhouse in the Maple Leaf Room. The first official meeting was held in the Annex with Lois Kelley as its first President, Reiny Stoskopf as Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer, Jeanne Jordan. The primary objective was the beautification of the park.

We now have 22 common area gardens which are maintained by individuals, and are proud occupants of a garden shed in back of “the Barn” which is used for storing the supplies which are needed for our gardening work.

The basic fund raiser is the Plant Sale which is held on the first Saturday of November in conjunction with the Betmar Breakfast. The Betmar Board of Directors grants the club a specified amount of money each year so gardens can continue to be attractive.

As often as possible, members weed and deadhead in the common area gardens. Groups get together to power wash the bricks around the gardens and a huge project is spreading mulch in each of the 22 gardens with as many as 40 people gathering to achieve this goal. Those members who live in Betmar year round are faithful in maintaining the gardens during the hot summer months.

Christmas decorating around Memorial Walkway, near the Shuffle Board Pond and at the front entrance is the responsibility of this organization. Holidays from February until Easter are celebrated with lighted holiday displays featured at the Pond area at memorial Walkway. The efforts of Garden club members is very much appreciated for all the work they do to uphold the original objective of the founders of the Betmar Garden club.



Kids from Zephyrhills West help the Garden Club

## **BETMAR GOLF CLUB**

Betmar Golf was one of the first activities chosen to be part of the park. In 1967, land was cleared for construction of the White Course. According to his children, Mr. Sprinkle was an avid golfer and he took his nine iron, a golf ball and eighteen stakes out to the land where the course would be built. He put one stake in the ground each time he teed up. This would be the tee box for that hole. Then he hit the ball with his nine iron to determine the placement for each hole. He put the second stake into the ground where his ball had landed each of the nine times he hit it.

The first minutes of the Golf Club were recorded October 15, 1970. In 1977 the first Golf Clubhouse was built. This was later called Clubhouse #1 and in 1991 it was used for playing cards and shooting pool. It is possible that this name was given to it at the time the old Clubhouse #1 became the Library and the card playing was moved. This was used by the Game Club until it was torn down in 2000.

In the early 80's the Golf Club sponsored the first What Not Sale under the trees in back of Clubhouse #2. It was held in conjunction with the Pancake Breakfast the first weekend in January, with all proceeds going to help defray expenses of the golf course. Raffles and other forms of making income were added and after a few years golf competitions were added.

In 1980, after a year of discussion, the Golf club voted to have a Board of Directors instead of one chairman. The Constitution and By-Laws for the Golf club were adopted in March 1981. The purpose of the club was to provide an organized group of interested Betmar residents to promote unity, fun and fellowship among golf members and to insure the continuous management and proper maintenance of the facility.

In 1982 there was a lighted and fenced in area on the golf course for RV parking.

In 1983 land was bought for the back nine or the Blue Course. In 1984, the Golf Club opened the new nine hole golf course during the spring and summer for limited play so the snowbirds could play before they went north. The Grand Opening for this course and the Golf Clubhouse was held November 10, 1984. At this time Betmar had 18 holes of golf for members of the Club. The new golf Clubhouse was also completed in 1984 with an addition added in 2004.

In 1988 four acres of land was set aside to use as a driving range. In 1989 a new four inch line sprinkler on the front nine was installed. The club also obtained loans to install 6-7' chain link fence around the west side of the back nine. In 1992 a bridge was built between White #2 and #7. A pitching green was built in 1994.

The Golf Club agreed to raise the money for developing the Gold 9 which also included 12 new greens as 1 on the Blue and 2 greens of the White had to be relocated. The Golf Course had a ground breaking ceremony with a golf cart parade and the Kitchen Band. Free hot dogs and soda were served. A similar event was also held for the Grand Opening. The official opening of the Gold 9 was December 12, 1999. The total cost of this project was \$347,493.88.

November 2000 saw the start of new restrooms for the 3 courses. The Blue #4 restroom opened on October 15, 2001, followed by the White #5 and Gold #5 in mid April 2002.

November 2000 also saw the first attempt by volunteers to pour concrete paths. They started with 180' at Gold #9 and White #9 tee boxes. Their plan was to pour 2000 ft that winter, but there was so much help and enthusiasm that they poured 3942 foot plus 25 concrete pads for the benches along the walks. They continued the next couple of years until all were completed. Those same volunteers also installed all of the new granite tee markers.



Farmland which would become Blue #9

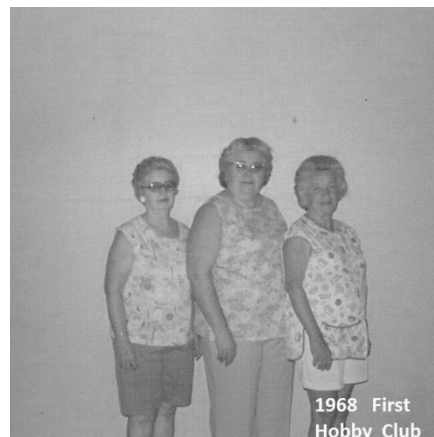


In 2001 #6 tee was replaced and irrigation was completed for the course. Blue #4 bathroom opened in October. November 2002, plans were drawn up by architect Dave Smith for an addition to the Golf Clubhouse. The meeting room was started March 15, 2003 and opened May 2, 2004. The deck was completed in 2006. A little excitement was added to the courses in 2005 when alligators made their home in the adjacent ponds. In 2008 the golf parking lot was repaved.

## BETMAR HOBBY CLUB

The Betmar Hobby Club was formed in 1968 by Beryl Mann who saw a need in Betmar and brought together a small group of women who were interested in crafts.

Originally, there were no officers, however, Beryl Mann acted as Chairman, Pearl Parkes, Co-chairman, and Posey Walker, assistant. The Hobby Club is a group of women getting together, exchanging ideas and doing crafts. Pearl Parkes and Posey Walker were two of the original members.



The first Bazaar was held in 1971, earning approximately \$500.00. Dishes and kitchen supplies were purchased for the kitchen and curtains for the kitchen and small club house. In 1972 the Bazaar netted approximately \$800.00. These funds were used to purchase the Bingo machine.

In 1973 Hobby Club was officially formed and officers elected. The 1973 Bazaar realized in excess of \$1,000.00. Cupboards were purchased for the small clubhouse in addition to more supplies for the kitchen which included gold colored dish towels.

1975-76 saw the election of officers with Georgia Collett, President, Fran Clampitt, 1<sup>st</sup> vice President, Pearl Parkes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Hilda Farnsworth, Secretary, and Mary Robinson, Treasurer. Due to family illness, Hilda Farnsworth resigned as Secretary and Ruth Diersen completed that term of office. A Christmas Bazaar was held earning approximately \$225.00 and the February bazaar earned approximately \$1,700.00. Funds were donated to the Betmar Owners association to purchase additional restaurant type kitchen equipment in the amount of \$700.00



The By-laws which were initiated by Fran Clampitt were approved and adopted January 13, 1976 and the club was officially named the Betmar Hobby club. Between 50 and 100 ladies meet every Tuesday to work on Bazaar items or for their own pleasure. Money has been donated to a number of causes including the Rescue Squad, Betmar Security, Meals on Wheels and Betmar Owners, Inc. Much of the donations go to the Betmar Owners, Inc. toward improvements in Clubhouse No. 2 and Annex.



The Hobby Club has contributed funds to purchase additional kitchen equipment, primarily on the restaurant size level, major improvements in the interior of the Clubhouse. In 1982 the Hobby Club published "The Best of Betmar Recipes" cookbook. Money was raised by selling cookies and coffee. With these funds, mugs, spoons and a coffee pot were purchased for the coffee hour.

In 1999, the Hobby Club published a Betmar Cook Book for the millennium. Recipes were gathered from all the good cooks in Betmar. These books were sold at the Hobby Bazaar. The club meets once a week and the membership has grown from year to year. We have many scrapbooks that tell the history of our club. The Hobby club sponsors the Support the Troops program which is run by Fred Fletcher.

### **JAM SESSION CLUB**

Every Monday night, in Club house #3 there is a Jam Session. Musicians and Vocalists from Betmar and from the surrounding community come to this clubhouse and entertain as many Betmarians and guests as will fit in the hall. The music is varied but it is mostly Classic Country and Western, Folk, and Blue Grass.

This group, The Jam Club, was founded in 1997 and organized by a group from Betmar, including Charlie and Muriel Drew, Billy Sparrow, Dotty Elkin, Don and Lois Miller. Anyone who wished to perform was welcome. They came in and signed up on a sheet, got their back-up performers together, and when it was their turn, they performed to the delight of the audience which seemed to grow every week. The number of performers also increased over the years, so the Jam Club, with permission from the Betmar Board, enlarged the stage to make room for them.

Members attend a business meeting on the first Monday of the month to discuss ways to improve our Monday night sessions and to plan our annual Shows which have played to hundreds of people in Clubhouse #2. Since 1997, the members of this Jam Club have been meeting every Monday night from November to May.



## Betmar Kitchen Band

The Betmar Kitchen Band started in 1970. The band had a director, a piano player and about 30 musicians. Their rollicking rhythms, old time songs, jokes, skits and dance steps did years of fun for the band and their audiences. Their instruments were washboards, kazoos, washtubs, whistles and even hair combs.

Dora Benzinger and Barbara Lockhart directed the band as they began in the 70s. They were followed by Jane Bryan and piano player Isabel Gilchrist. The band played at Nursing Homes and special functions at Betmar. Dick Morse played the piano until 2009.



Original Band

Jackie Mosher inspired us to make red and white aprons that she designed, with pockets for our songs. Other directors were Pat Eboch, Jackie Mosher, Ellen Ackerman and Ruth Gravengood. We continue to perform at Nursing Homes every Friday morning after an hour of practice. Presently, we have around 30 regular Band members.

Ellen Ackerman, a 23 year member

## PHYSICAL FITNESS



Gary Ruda taught exercise Classes in Betmar in 1980 and was followed by Claudette Brown in 1983. Both classes were funded by the county. When the county funds ran out, a volunteer, Laura Warring took over the class in Betmar. Laura Warring was 77 year at the time and she called the class Physical Education and continued the class through 1990. She had asked for a time slot in Clubhouse 3.

In 1991 Florence Thompson led the classes until the spring of 1991. Then Jack Lanager taught Aerobics. When Jack's health began to fail, he taught Geneva Gates to fill in for him until she began teaching the class in 2002. Aerobics class is currently being taught every Monday, Wednesday and pilates is taught on Thursday in Clubhouse 3 at 8:00 am until 9:00 am. Marilyn Dwelley teaches the Wednesday class. These classes run from November through April. Geneva is our President and two Vice Presidents are Eunice Miller and Marilyn Dwelley.

In the past we also had Tai Chi and Stretch Band Classes. Our classes number from

## Little Theater

The first meeting of the Little Theater Club was held in April 1981. In 1982, they produced a musical, "A Trip Through Nostalgia-land", which was written and produced by the members. It was a huge success performed to a sellout crowd and the cast was invited to appear at the Municipal Auditorium for the Senior Citizen Festival.

The next year "Music of the 20s" was presented to sell-out crowds. The group was invited to be a part of Adult Education community "Expo 83" and performed excerpts from the show to a capacity crowd in Zephyrhills High School. The Little Theater group has purchased its own lighting and sound equipment and contributed generously to park improvements.

In 1988, a building was built to store props and equipment.

Little theater continued to thrive over the years, producing high quality musicals and variety shows. In April 1996 a Dessert Theater was added to the schedule for those who desired to do more "acting" than performing. The first Dessert Theater performances were held on January 26 and February 2, 1997. The shows consisted of two one-act comedies separated by an intermission at which dessert and coffee was served. A total of 453 tickets were sold for this first production.

Little Theater has consistently contributed generously throughout the years to many Betmar improvements, including air conditioning of CH#2, piano for Chorus, lighting and sound equipment.



2003



2010

**LADIES GOLF**

Betmar women have been playing Wednesday morning scrambles as far back as 1981 on both the white and blue courses. The first women's champion was officially recorded in 1984-85. In 1992, the handicap system was instituted and two new computers were purchased.

The Women's Golf League is responsible for introducing and organizing the Scotch double tournaments, the three club tournaments, the night golf tournaments and the men versus women tournaments. In 1998, the Women's League was instrumental with the opening of the Pro Shop – then called the “Tuck” Shop.

Beginning in October, the Women's golf League plays eight or nine 3-week scramble tournaments with prizes awarded at the end of each 3-week tournament. The President's cup Tournament and the Golden Girls Tournament are held in March, followed by the Women's Fun Day and annual banquet.

The Women's Golf League also sponsors a raffle during the What-Not-Sale weekend with proceeds going to the Golf Club.

**HOSPITALITY**

Hospitality held their first organized official meeting January 18, 1979 with 23 enthusiastic members. This club consists of a group of Betmar women residents and renters who meet once a month to discuss ways we can make people in the park feel welcomed. This committee sends get well cards to the sick, hosts luncheon fashion shows, card parties and cake walks to obtain funds for operation and donations for park improvements.

We provide greeters for coffee hour and sponsor the Need a Call program.

Other activities we are involved in are assembling folders that are passed out in the Betmar Office to new residents and renters. We make and deliver Valentines for each household. The club coordinates the Christmas decorating of the park working with the Garden Club and serving lunch to all the volunteers who help.

## BETMAR MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

The **Organ Club** was organized in November 1981 with meetings being held in the Annex with classes and instructors from a nearby music company. In 1982, classes and meetings were held each Friday at Clubhouse #1 with a social hour following. The purpose of the club was to encourage the growth and development of ability to play the organ and experience the joy in the art of performing. In



1983, the club voted to meet in clubhouse #3. The last Friday of each month an "Evening of Entertainment" was presented to 100-200 Betmar residents and guest. Donations at the door helped the treasury grow and they were able to replace the organ on loan with their own.

"Cookie Concerts" were held with concerts followed by a social time with cookies made by park residents. During the 90's, more elaborate annual concerts were presented during the second week of February in Clubhouse #2. There was also a Betmar Band called "The Love boat Band".

In 1993, the name of the group was changed to "**Organ and Music**", a name it retained until March 2, 2007 when it was changed to "**Music and Entertainment Club**".

In 2001, a new organ was purchased and in 2004 and a new one was placed in Clubhouse #2. In 2005, it was decided to replace our annual pot luck dinners with Finger Foods to be held on the third Friday of each month. Sometime during the mid-2000 years, the stage in Clubhouse #3 was enlarged which gave more room for performers and in 2007, a safety railing leading to the stage was installed.

New sound equipment was installed during 2008 which enhanced the quality of the programs being offered. The Music and Entertainment Club is proud to present quality programs each Friday evening. The variety of talent is remarkable and assures all of us an evening of entertainment. An annual Christmas program is presented in December, and February always promises a varied and multi-talented program to be enjoyed. Meetings are held every Friday evening beginning at 7:00 pm in Clubhouse #3 from October through the end of May.

## **SINGLES**

On February 2, 1978, the Singles Club was formed with twelve members present. It was organized for, and still is primarily a social group. They continue to meet on Thursday evenings. All singles are welcome. They occasionally go out to eat and other times meet to play cards or games.

## **Sisters**

In January of 2002, a get together of all Betmar Sisters was held at Clubhouse #3. They had a potluck and dessert luncheon. Thirty pairs of sisters attended. This is an annual event.

## **Betmar Swim Club**

The Swim Club is a “sub-group” of Betmar Owners Inc. and is completely self- supporting with volunteers doing the management. Members open and close the pools according to schedules and weather. There is a licensed pool maintenance company paid to maintain the chemistry of both pools and spas.

In 1970 the first request for a swimming pool was been made. In the fall of 1979 a group of residents came up with a plan for a pool and submitted it to Owners.

Officers were elected to head the group. A preliminary canvassing of residents indicated a general approval of the project which was presented to the Betmar board in December 1979. The board agreed to name a committee to work with the swimming pool group. At the next meeting, the committee reported that a site had been selected and also a tentative financing plan was drawn up.

The board offered support and named a committee to follow through on the site and financing plan. The plan was based on a fee of \$50 per family per year (OR an advance payment plan of \$250 for a six year period) to provide immediate money for the construction of the pool. Each home in the park was visited by a block representative and acquainted with the pool project. By January 23, 1980 there had been 251 pledges received totaling \$32,000. By March a total of over \$42,000 had been pledged by a membership of 223 and the long awaited pool was to become a reality. On July 4, 1980 the pool was formally opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The pool was 20 feet by 58 feet with a capacity of 29 people.

Membership continued to increase so furniture, a bulletin board and landscaping were added. The pool was fenced for security. The building was built by park volunteers as well. In June 1982, a whirlpool/spa was added with a capacity of 8.

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Water Aerobics was started around 1990 once a week taught by Donna Metoff and Mrs. Smith.

Despite the improvements, it was decided the pool was too small for the growing park. Proposals to build a larger pool were made in 1995 to be financed by higher fees. Finally in 2002 it was decided to build a new larger pool with a spa.



The new pool was 34 feet by 75 feet with a capacity of 96 and a spa with a capacity of 14. Financing for the new pool, spa and building was by pool member donations, a donation of \$50,000 from Betmar Acres Inc. and with Bonds sold to park residents for a total of \$150,000 to complete the construction. The new pool and spa were built using pavers for the pool decking and vinyl fencing for the security enclosure. The final cost was \$435,000. Bonds are redeemed yearly from membership fees until all bonds are paid off.

Money raising projects financed the project to buy furniture for the new pool. In 3 years \$7,500.00 was raised to purchase furniture for the new pool.

In 2005 it was decided to update the old pool with vinyl fencing to match the fencing at the new pool. Sixty members donated approximately \$8000 to add the fencing. The two pools merged to form a large swim complex with a gate between them. In the fall of 2005, a new aluminum roof was added over the building and the equipment area. The long shade area at the old pool was mostly removed in 2006, leaving a smaller shade area near and over the spa.

In 2009 large planters were added to both pools and both shower areas were tiled. A new bulletin board was installed outside the new pool. These additions make the pool area into a prime amenity to the park. Our Club offers lap swimming, morning water aerobics, afternoon water aerobics, water volleyball and summertime evening poolside music entertainment. All pool members are encouraged to help with the needed upkeep of the pools.

### **Shuffleboard Club**

In January 1971, the Shuffleboard Club was organized. The shufflers used the four courts built behind Clubhouse #1 and later built six adjacent to Clubhouse #2. Courts were added as the club grew. We now have 24 shuffleboard courts by Clubhouse #2. In 1983 twelve were enclosed and in 1997 the last twelve were enclosed. In the mid-eighties a building for storing cues was erected. In 1999 a glass enclosure for the courts was added, making it acceptable as a site for area tournaments, no matter what the weather.



Open courts by Clubhouse #2

The Betmar Shuffleboard Club has hosted many two and three day tournaments over the years. Some are for Betmar residents only, others are area wide, central district or statewide. When the club hosts large tournaments lunch is served. The Shuffleboard Club also has an aluminum recycling program. They collect all the donated aluminum cans and other scrap aluminum from the residents and sell this to raise money.

The profit the club makes goes to pay for the upkeep and repair of the courts and pay all expenses of the club. At the end of the season, a check is given to Betmar Owners. In 2004 we remodeled the front area of the courts enlarging the office, the cue stall storage room and added a much needed workshop room. In September, hurricane Frances caused a large tree to come through the roof.

In 2003-2004 the club hosted the Betmar King and Queen, Art and Dolores Carlen and Prince and Princess, Art Jean and Ruth Ann Wilson. They rode on a float to represent our club in the Zephyrhills Founders day Parade. In 2006, it was voted that membership was required for residents to use the courts. In June of 2008, we hosted our first National doubles tournament with 100 players. We did the same in 2009, and plan to do so again in June 2010.



The club hosted the First International Single Invitation Tournament ever held in Zephyrhills from October 14-18, 2009. Two of our residents played in this event. Joan Cook played for the women of Canada and Earl Ball played for the men of the U.S.A.

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There were 32 players in each division. Other players were from Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Germany, Japan, Portugal and U.S.A.

The activities began Tuesday evening with "Meet and Greet" in the court area. Wednesday everyone gathered to form a parade of the nations around the lake in front of the courts and into the clubhouse. The flag of each country was presented as their National anthem was played. Opening remarks were made by the mayor of Zephyrhills, Cliff McDuffie; the president of Betmar Owners Inc., Gus Clarke' and our own club president, Terry Rainwater. Lunch was prepared by our many volunteers and served each day from Wednesday through Sunday. The Hall of Fame Banquet was catered in by Sonny's Restaurant on Thursday evening. The Golf Club prepared the Saturday luncheon.

The evening ended with a banquet by our own volunteers on Sunday evening. The Game Club hosted a snack tent outside the court area each day. The Video club made a DVD of the event to give to each player.

## **TENNIS CLUB**

In the fall of 1998, a small group of tennis enthusiasts met to draft plans for the construction of two hard tennis courts in Betmar. Under the guidance of our first club president, Roy Nyren, we were granted club status by the Betmar board.

Three areas of focus were: membership growth, construction financing, and site selection. To increase membership, Roy Nyren and Dick Moffatt offered free tennis lessons at the city courts. Members helped with instructions and membership increased. Financing construction was done through fundraisers, dues and a very generous donation by Dick Moffatt. It was decided that site selection would be left to the Betmar board.

The Betmar board selected a site during the summer of 2002 and club members began preparing the site. A contract for engineering of the courts was given to C. Fred Deuel and Associates and a contract to build the courts was awarded to the Welch Tennis Court Construction Company.

A few days before construction was to begin, heavy rains came and flooded the entire site. This site was not acceptable and a new site would be needed.

The present site for our courts was approved by the Betmar board on February 19, 2004, with Bill Russell appointed as building chairman.

On March 15, 2004, a new contract was signed with Deuel and Associates and seven months later, November 30, 2004, a new contract with Welch Tennis Courts Inc. was signed to build the courts. On April 29, 2004 Betmar approved a \$19,000 interest free loan with an estimated pay back of three years after the courts were completed. This money was required because of increased cost of construction and over \$10,000 spent by the Tennis club for engineering and permits for the old site.

One year later on February 10, 2005 the site development permit was issued and a ground breaking ceremony was held February 15, 2005. A few days later Betmar volunteers both members and non-members began preparing the site to meet SWFWMD, Pasco county, and Welch's requirements. A week after the Betmar crew finished leveling the area, Welch Construction began hauling huge truck loads of base and the courts began to take shape.

By May 16, 2005, the courts were ready for a historic match. Dick Moffatt and Ed Holtzhouse played Glen Burton and Roy Nyren. The team of Moffatt-Holtzhouse won 6-2. Roy Nyren had contacted the Florida chapter of the USTA about conducting a clinic as part of a grand opening day. Art Schultz set it up and Jeff Davis of the USTA, assisted by five Betmar players, conducted the clinic. Twenty-five racquets were given away to the first twenty-five new members. Club membership more than doubled as a result of the grand opening. Lessons in tennis and pickle ball were set up for Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for the remainder of the 2006 year. At the present time our courts continue to see increased



usage.

### **TOPS FL #725**

Our club began with seven members of Tops FL #308, Zephyrhills, who all lived in Betmar. Tops FL 308 held their meetings on Thursday evenings at the Methodist Church in Zephyrhills. We went to the Board of Directors of Betmar to see if they would agree to furnish us with a meeting place. Because TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) is an International Organization, we would not be under Betmar rules. The Board did not want to set a precedent for other outside clubs coming into Betmar and asking to use the clubhouses. We then had to agree to special rules. 1. We would be a closed chapter of TOPS, meaning that we only accept Betmar residents, owners or renters as members. 2. We would do no fundraising outside of our own club so we would not to compete with other Betmar Owners Clubs.

Mae Nemeth ordered the scale; Cliff and Eunice Aubertine helped to organize the club and Betmar owners paid for it and are therefore the owners. The Board also loaned us \$200.00 to start us out with and we repaid them. We do not pay rent but we do donate to Betmar Owners.

Mae also talked to our TOPS coordinator and they had no problem with a closed chapter. She got all forms and materials that we needed to start our club including making the welcome folders for all the members. She could not have done it without the help of Betmar Communications staff, who did all of the printing.

We also received money from Chapter FL#308 to start our chapter. Each active member in a chapter has a claim on the money in the treasury of the chapter if they leave to join a new chapter. This we did not know at the time we made our move. Seven members qualified. It was a big help to get the charms and supplies we needed to start our chapter.



Our first officers were; Leader- Eunice Aubertine, Vice leader-Nancy Nyren, Secretary-Kay Brady , Treasurer-Rose Rinere and Weight recorder was Shirley Dube. Our first official meeting of FL 725, Zephyrhills, was held on October 2, 1999. There were over 20 members at our first meeting. We now have 50 members. Our meetings are held Saturday morning, with weigh in 8:00-8:45 and the meeting at 9:00.

## **SECURITY**

Plans for a Security Program began in 1975 when break-ins and vandalism became prevalent to homes located by the woods. A house to house canvas showed that a majority of the residents favored a security program. A committee was selected with George Helm as chairman.

A Betmar resident knew of a sedan for sale for \$100 which he purchased. Residents contributed funds to purchase "many" used car parts which were installed by dedicated and skilled Betmar men. The car was parked at a home since there was no other designated place for it.

There was a CB base station at Clubhouse #2 and a unit in one car. Security began on a shoestring budget, financed by voluntary donations. The drivers sometimes took gasoline money from their own pockets so they could make the runs.

Over the years local and county police departments plus other private security agencies have supported Betmar's Security Program. This program was the first of its kind to be registered in the state archives.

In 1989, we stopped using donations for the security program and began having an assessment to be added to the yearly park dues. It was originally \$18 and was raised to \$20 in 1992.

The Security Commission had six members. Until 1999, the nightly patrol had two people operating the patrol car each night and two working at the base station to contact the sheriff should the need arise.

Security has assisted Betmar residents by finding lost people, pets and items; investigating complaints; distributing vials of life; assisting in times of trouble and sorrow and checking homes during the summer months. Today the security commission has 4 members. The patrol has one person operating the patrol car each night. There are choices of three phone numbers which may be called when help is needed and to report any need for aid. These are on twenty-four hour alert.

We now have a full time Security patrol at night, from 10-6. They patrol all the streets in Betmar. Glen can be reached 24 hours 7 days week, if needed.

Security Chief	Glen Marcum 395-3010
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Skip Miller 715-7065
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Harry Taylor 838-0298
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ken Curtis 355-3907

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Betmar residents are like a community or a large family, always reaching out to help and encourage one another. But, in a larger sense, they also reach out beyond themselves to a larger community in Zephyrhills and even further to our beloved troops who are all over the world. These are some of the ways that the hand of Betmar reaches outside our park to encourage others.

- **Christmas Presents for West Zephyrhills Elementary School**

In 2000, some of the ladies in the park were knitting hats and mittens to be sent to the niece of a park resident, Shirley LaChance who taught school at an Indian reservation in Arizona. When the postage cost was up to \$50, someone asked, Aren't there any cold kids in Zephyrhills? That is when we met Becky Bishop and the kids of W.Z.E.S.

Each Christmas, our Betmar family makes hats, mittens, and scarves and buys clothing, school supplies, and small gifts. At coffee hour in December, two or three classes come over to entertain us in song and dance.

Connie Johnson and Lucy Mastro have purchased and wrapped gifts for each child. The children ask for the kitchen band to play and some even say they want to play in it when they grow up.



- **Battery Recycling for West**

This program began in 2007. Betmar donates AAA, AA, C, D, 9 Volt and all non –liquid filled batteries like ones from hearing aids and computers. We helped the school take 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Pasco County’s School Recycling program. In 2009, they were 2<sup>nd</sup>, closing in on 1<sup>st</sup> of all the schools in the county. This is a win-win situation by keeping batteries out of the landfills and helping the school to earn money. Turn your batteries in at coffee hour.

- **Gold Wing Toy Distribution**

Around 1982-1983 FL 1-5 started in Zephyrhills by Ken Steers a short time later a fund raiser started called Mingle and Jingle and toys for kids began. Royce Lambert, chapter director brought motorcycles into the park to get toys and ride the Lighted Night Ride about 1990.

For the past twenty years the Goldwing Road Riders Association has put out boxes in 50 parks in Zephyrhills area. All the toys stay in Pasco County. The toys are brought to Betmar Clubhouse from 50 parks and volunteers sort them by age groups on the tables. 827 children from 13 schools plus foster care in Eastern Pasco are the recipients of these gifts. The teachers, social workers and ABC program are screened by the Gold Wing Club and these people have their list of how many gifts each boy or girl receives. There are no children present when the gifts are selected. The estimated value of gifts donated by Zephyrhills Parks, Dade City and all around eastern Pasco County was \$22,000.



- **Bell Ringers for Salvation Army**

In October 2000, Bob Mitchell saw people all over town wearing Betmar jackets. As a coordinator for the Salvation Army Volunteer Kettle program, he called Betmar Office to inquire if Betmar would be interested in volunteering for this project. The Office called Dee Payne and a new volunteer project began. Charlotte Broadley, Jerri LaFever, Jeanette and Cliff Bannerman were the first coordinators who signed up residents to ring the bell at Kmart and Wal-Mart. Over the years hundreds of volunteers have worked hundreds of hours to help bring in thousands of dollars to this worthy cause.

- **Neighborhood Care Center**

The Neighborhood Care Center is located at 5140 Sixth Street in Zephyrhills. They collect clothing, furniture and groceries for families who are going through hard times. They also take money donations which they use to help pay bills.

Betmar got involved with this organization in 2005. The ladies in Betmar decided to collect whatever groceries they didn't want to take back north or leave in Florida and donate to this cause at coffee hour. These items were then taken to the Care Center. Sometimes the money from coffee and donuts is designated for that cause. The What-Not Sale also buys coffee and donuts and gives the money collected as a donation. They have also donated furniture and some clothing. The total from Betmar in 2009 given to the Care Center was \$1469.

- **Newspaper Recycling**

There is a container for newspaper recycling behind Clubhouse 3. It has a sliding door on both sides and a wooden step for those who may have difficulty reaching the door. This is newspapers only... not boxes, magazines or telephone books. The sale of these newspapers goes directly to East Pasco Meals on Wheels program and many residents from our park are recipients of this program.





## **Honoring and Helping our Troops and Veterans**

- **Stamps for Vets**

Our “Stamps for Vets” program was started by Mort Uhlman in the early 1980s and has been carried on by his wife Millie ever since. The collected stamps which are cut off the envelopes, are packaged in flat rate postal boxes and sent to the VA Hospital in Tucson, AZ. Tucson is the central distribution center for this VA program. The stamps are used for physical and occupational therapy by wounded, handicapped and shut in veterans. They soak the stamps off the paper in water, dry them, sort and package them. Any Veteran can request a package of stamps to start or increase a collection for themselves, their children or grandchildren. The VA provides them at no charge. This program has become more popular over the last few years because of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and has boosted the number of shipments to five or more boxes of stamps a year.

- **Support The Troops**

Support the Troops program began in April of 2003 when we started sending care packages to the troops engaged in Iraq. Funding for the program has come almost exclusively through the generosity of our residents along with that of friends and relatives.

After sending 80 packages, we heard that the military had opened an exchange store in the Iraq area and they could use Military Store gift certificates. We then switched to sending \$15 gift certificates instead of paying the postage. Early that fall, we found that we could send paperback books at book rate (about 25 books for \$5) so with the help of a couple of used book stores, several yard sales the Betmar Library and our residents, we have sent thousands of books to the Troops.

With a request from one of the Soldiers in Iraq, we added cool ties and later bandannas. 2008 brought a request for knitted wool hats for the Troops in Afghanistan. Our residents responded by knitting over a thousand by the end of 2009. Some other requests we filled included such items as body wipes, toothpaste, toilet paper, kid's books (so the dads can video themselves reading the stories and send them to their children), stuffed toys, playing cards, puzzle books, coffee, snacks and cigars. Many thanks to Fred Fletcher who coordinates this project.

- **WORLD WAR II "IN THEIR OWN WORDS"**

Larry Martin began interviewing World War II veterans in 2000. Since that time he has interviewed fifty five war veterans about the sacrifices they made for our freedom. He has videotaped these men and women so they are telling their stories "in their own words". Since 2007, Larry has shared these stories with 2,600 people. These DVD's will be available for purchase later in the year. His website is : [lmww2.com](http://lmww2.com)



Larry Martin with WWII artifacts



WWII Veteran Clyde Schofield

## **LIGHTING**

Pete Whyte was the leader in upgrading the stage lighting system. When he first got involved, all there were for lights were two spot lights on poles about 20 foot from the stage aimed upwards, and fluorescent lights on the stage. At that time only one spot light was working.

Later, it was decided to improve the stage lighting. An electrical company was contacted about wiring to a different location for the lights. An electrical business came in and ran the wiring for all 18 lights to be mounted on the ceiling. The Board continued to fund this project which took three years to finish and cost \$6800.00.

Les Jewitt worked on lights with Pete Whyte for approximately ten years. Pete retired 3 years ago and Les and his wife Helen have done most of the shows since then. Last year Ben Tombs joined the group because it takes three people for some of the shows. We recently added another row of lights to illuminate a larger choir.

## **SOUND DEPARTMENT**

The Sound Department is a service subsidized by Owners/Acres and is used in all clubhouses, including golf clubhouse. We now own a great portable system that can be requested for outdoor events.

We are all volunteers who work diligently 20 hours plus in a week in the winter months and about half as much in the summer. We give sound to Plays, Chorus, Shows by clubs, Practices, Business Meetings, Coffee Hour, Performers who are from outside the park. In ninety percent of all events, sound is involved. We are continually up-grading our equipment.

## **TABLE AND CHAIR SETUP**

Table and Chair Set Up was organized by Jim Hosenfelt to setup tables and chairs for coffee and pancake dinners. It was started when clubhouse #2 was finished in 1969. When more activities were added, paper slips were sent out in the bulletins listing days and times for tables and chairs to be set up.

The first chairman was Jim Hosenfelt followed by Jack Alfred and Phil Charico. In October 1987, Howard Russell and later Ray Roshong organized this venture. They set up the tables and chairs for all events in Clubhouse 2 and the annex. Some days they need to setup a room several times for different events.

## BETMAR VIDEO PRODUCTION TEAM



The Betmar Video Production Team was formed in 2005 at the request of the Betmar Chorus and Little Theater groups. The Chorus, Little Theater, and Computer Clubs each contributed \$1,000.00 and by October we were teaching a small group of volunteers to operate video cameras and switching equipment much the same as larger broadcast studios use.

Countless volunteer hours have gone into wiring of the clubhouse and editing as well as practice of various techniques and lighting effects. Ron Brown our Betmar cabinet maker built the beautiful cabinet that houses our equipment. Since our original start, all of the proceeds from our sale of DVD's and CD's are used to purchase new equipment and maintenance.



Our team members are also registered to use an on-line video and audio course that is supported by many colleges and schools. The recent addition of an Apple computer will greatly improve the quality of our DVD's.

## SANTA CLAUS

The residents of Betmar have been fortunate in the past years to have a wonderful Santa Claus. Most recently, Cliff Bannerman and our present Santa & Mrs. Claus, Luman and Barbara Rockhill have brought joy to many people. They attend many



Betmar functions and take many pictures of our people with Santa. They also distribute candy. In December 2009 a budget of \$250.00 was set for expenses for Santa.



## **PAST AND PRESENT KINGS AND QUEENS OF BETMAR**

1972	Jeannie Bell Yardon and Reginna Kadow
1973	Peter Mardavich and Ann Schneider
1974	Clarence and Dora Gensinger
1975	Lyle and Ethel Greeman
1976	Leo and Georgia Collett
1977	Tony and Mary Cocuzzi
1978	No King or Queen
1979	Ray and Shirley Morneau
1980	Ward and Helen Bell
1981	Francis and Evelyn Crowley
1982	Leonard and Herta Buske
1983	Howard and Isabelle Gilchrist
1984	Floyd and Evelyn Quinn
1985	Ralph and Maddie Forbes
1986	Robert and Barbara Lockhart
1987	Willard and Lois Hamm
1988	David and Lois Poole
1989	Art and Lenabelle Brewer
1990	Vic and Jane Bryan
1991	Sid and Elsie Dunford
1992	Dick and Leatha Roat
1993	Ken and Elaine Fellows
1994	Doug and Mildred Sears
1995	Don and Millie Ferrell
1996	Charles and Ruth Ames
1997	Ralph and Phyllis Donaghy
1998	Larry and Dee Payne
1999	Bruce and Lea Torrey
2000	Henry and Joyce Kwolek
2001	Clarence and Viva Dumas
2002	Pete and Barbara Whyte
2003	Art and Dolores Carlen
2004	Dale and Dorothy French
2005	Robert and Joan VanDorpe

### **Kings and Queens** continued

2006	Antonio and Nadean Cercone
2007	No King or Queen
2008	Everett Rockwell and Barbara Hamm
2009	Lewis and Fancheon Muir
2010	Daniel Duffy and Joan Hines
2011	Anthony & Lucy Mastrogiacomo

### **PAST AND PRESENT PRINCES AND PRINCESSES OF BETMAR**

1988	Syd and Elsie Dunford
1989	Bill and Virginia Peterson
1990	Earl and Helen Crandall
1991	Al and Lois Nelmes
1992	Francis and Kay Brady
1993	Gus and Florence Mugglin
1994	Claude and Helen Taylor
1995	Russ and Rose Bunker
1996	Ray and Dorothy Marshall
1997	Mort and Millie Uhlman
1998	Fred and Joan Fletcher
1999	No Prince and Princess
2000	Lewis and Fancheon Muir
2001	Dick Morse and Peggy Sluiter
2002	Harry and Merle O'Neil
2003	Art Jean and Ruth Ann Wilson
2004	Jim and Veva Rich
2005	Vernon and Sandra Johndro
2006	Rose and Russ Bunker
2007	No Prince and Princess
2008	William and Carolyn Amos
2009	Edward Lanesky and Lee Gaynier
2010	Domenic and Barbara Martucci
2011	Ralph Knotts and Mamie Stinchcombe

## **MEMORIAL FUND**

The Memorial fund was started by Jeanette McCann in 1983. It was started to collect donated monies in honor of deceased members and to purchase memorial plaques, markers, benches, light poles, and golf ball washers.

In 1988 the fountain near Clubhouse #2 was donated by Nick and Dee Lichatz as a Memorial to their daughter, Donna (Lichatz) Keller. A fund was set up by the family to maintain this fountain.

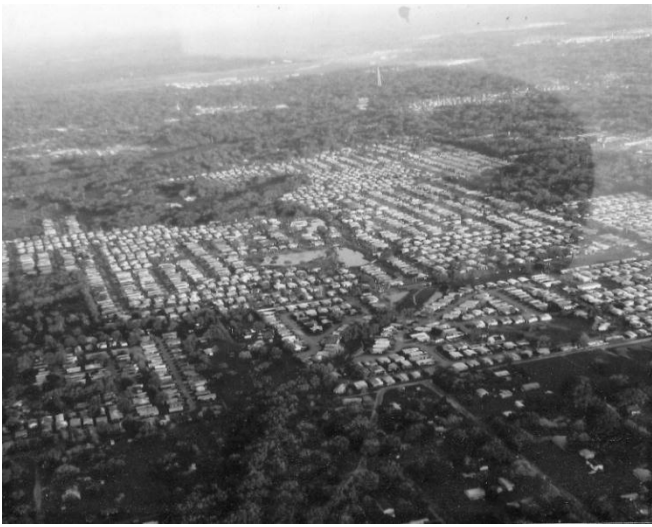
The funds received from 1983-1989 were \$11,500. In 1989 the money was used to purchase: Beautification of 54 W Entrance, new flag in Ch#2, 2 Dogwood trees on Lakewood, Weeping willows and Cypress trees on Lake and Strand, sidewalk at CH #3 and Library donation. In 1992 the Gazebo Swing was purchased. In 1994 Memorial Funds developed the Bocce Ball Court and the Mini Golf course. In 2002 the 9/11 Tree and Plaque were purchased and dedicated.

In 2003, Walt Pathic suggested that a brick plot to be placed by the flags, in the center of the walkway. A cement walk was poured out to the flag site and was named, Memory Lane. There are now three sections with over 300 bricks purchased. It serves as a wonderful memorial to honor past residents and also to celebrate a special event in lives of residents in Betmar.

In 2004, the Strand fountain was purchased by memorial donations and from generous contributions from Betmar. A reserve fund from the brick sales has been set aside to preserve Memory Lane and the Strand Fountain. All repairs come from this reserve fund. In 2006 the Garden club addition was funded.

## **BETMAR MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Memorial Service began in the spring of 2000. The Memorial is held on the 3rd Sunday in January. We celebrate the lives of current and past residents who passed away between January 1 and December 31 of the prior year. Service is conducted by both retired and active clergy living in Betmar. Music is under the direction of our Chorus leader Mary Margaret Trice. Flower bearers are chosen from residents who lost a family member and the past president represents Betmar.



Aerial view of Betmar



Apache Construction



New Pool Construction



Golf Clubhouse Construction



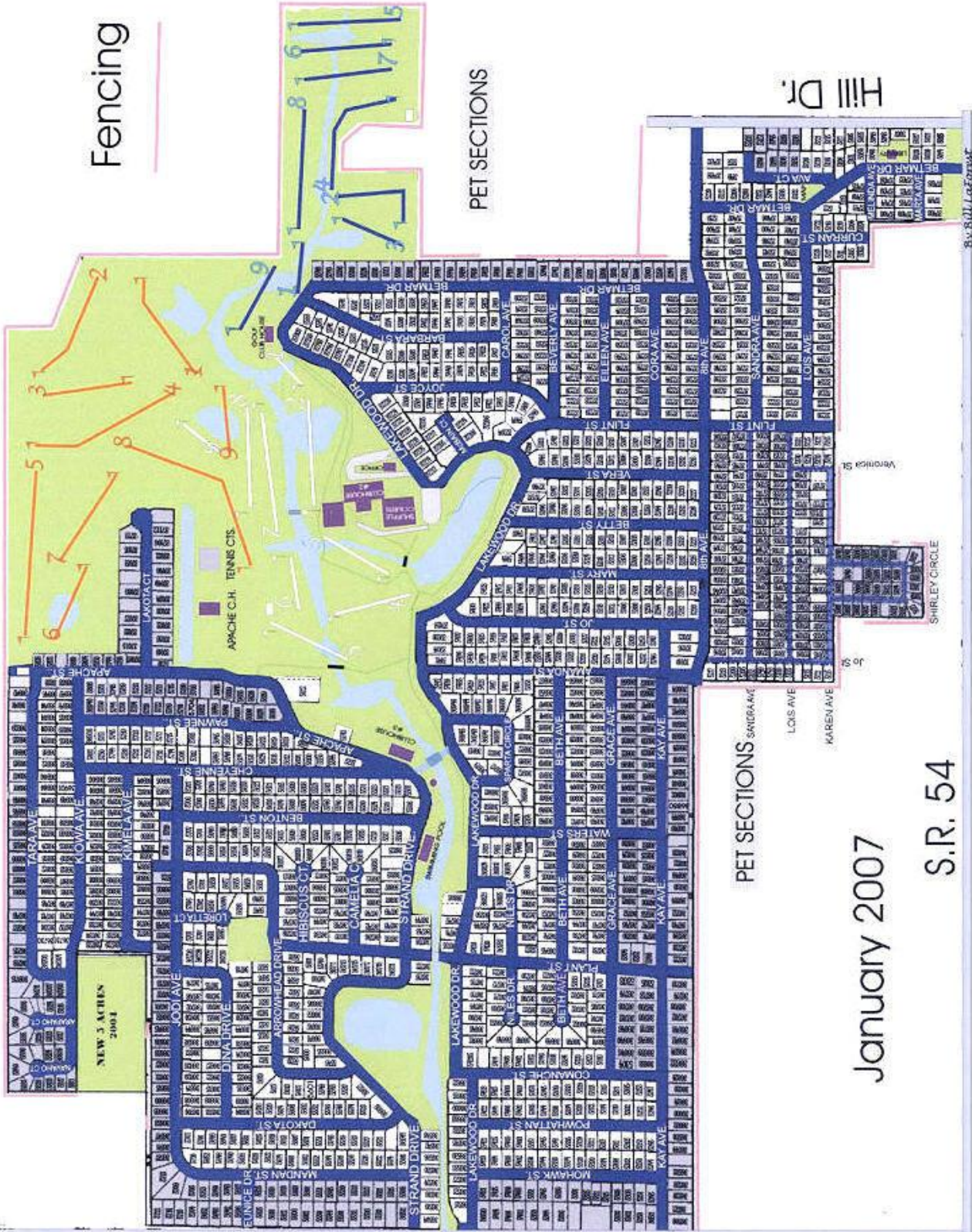
Waiting to go into Clubhouse #2



Inside Clubhouse #2



Dean Dairy Rd.



Fencing

PET SECTIONS

Hill Dr.

PET SECTIONS SANDRAVE

January 2007

S.R. 54

By: Bill Lofgren