



MAY 2024 **HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY** **VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 5**



DISC GOLF AT THE GROVE A GREAT OUTDOOR ACTIVITY FOR EVERYONE

Many people have inquired about the new 18 Hole Disc Golf Course that is being constructed on the back nine of the golf course. The Grove is excited to bring this amazing sport to the community of Loch Rane & OPCC.

The sport is one of the fastest growing family sports in our country. With over 7,500 certified courses across the nation, the state of Florida now contributes 275 of them and is growing at a record pace.

In North Florida we currently have 13 courses and The Grove will be #14. In 2023 alone, there were over 30,000 combined rounds of disc golf played at two of the local courses that tracked it.

Disc golf is a fantastic sport that combines the thrill of traditional golf with the accessibility and simplicity of frisbee. Whether you're a seasoned player or a beginner, disc golf offers endless fun and excitement for people of all ages.

“What Is It Exactly”?

Disc golf, also known as Frisbee golf, is a game played similarly to traditional golf. Instead of using clubs and golf balls, players use specially designed flying discs to complete each hole. The objective is to throw the disc into a basket or target in as few throws as possible. Just like in golf, the player with the lowest score at the end of the course wins. Disc golf courses are typically set in parks or natural areas, providing a scenic and refreshing backdrop for a family outing.

Inclusive and Beginner-Friendly

Disc golf is a sport that can be enjoyed by everyone, regardless of age or skill level. Whether you're a young child, a teenager, a parent, or a grandparent, disc golf offers an inclusive and beginner-

friendly experience. The rules are easy to understand, and the learning curve is relatively low. There are various disc types available so anyone can choose a disc that suits their throwing style and skill level.

Strategy and Skill Development

Disc golf is not just about throwing discs around; it requires strategy and skill. Each hole presents different challenges, such as distance, obstacles, and wind conditions. Planning your throws, considering the best angles, and adjusting your technique will help you improve your game.

Free Clinic for The Community

The Grove, in conjunction with River City Disc Golf Club, will be providing a free disc golf clinic for kids and adults on Saturday, May 25th. We will meet on the #10 tee-box at 10:00 AM. This free clinic will last approximately 2 hours.

This clinic is for residents of “Loch Rane & OPCC”, to come out and get instruction from some of the region’s best professional players. We will have some frisbees/discs for everyone to use at the clinic. If you have some, feel free to bring them with you. Attendees will learn the rules of disc golf and some basic techniques on how to properly throw a disc. We will play a few practice holes on the course after the clinic so that everyone can get the full experience.

**We look forward to seeing you
and your family there - The Grove**



OPCCOA/LRIA Steering Committee Report

April 18, 2024/ by Randy Rutan

The meeting was called to order at 5:57 pm by Larry Warren sitting in for Chairman, Daniel Butler. There was a quorum of members present. The March 2024 Minutes were unanimously approved subject to making a change in the Roads Committee report. The March 2024 Financial report was also unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

The Joint Landscape Committee provided estimates from Southern Tree Experts for removal of 2 dying oak trees near the gate house in the amount of \$2,200 and for removal of dead lead from an oak tree in the last island before the wing wall in the amount of \$500. Both estimates were approved. It was reported that the irrigation maps should be completed soon. There was no report from the Roads Committee. They will be asked to provide an update on the brick wall at the 4-way stop.

Old Business

Issues with CCSO Billing

Due to the way CCSO charges and payments are made there has been a significant increase in the amount of time Lifestyles Property Services spends on the shared expense bookkeeping. They have been doing weekly timesheets with weekly paychecks. There are about 9 – 10 officers receiving checks. We have been notified that Lifestyles will be increasing their monthly fee for the shared expense accounting by \$350/month and there will be an additional charge for doing the 1099 forms for these officers at the end of the year. Should we choose not to stay with CCSO and return to Giddens for the nightly patrol, they will provide one officer to do one complete drive through behind the gate between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. for a charge of \$50/night.

No decision was made by the Steering Committee. This topic will have to be discussed by both Boards.

Gatehouse Roof Replacement

Universal Roof & Contracting completed the roof replacement project on April 15, 2024 and the Building Department made its final inspection and approved the project. There was an extra cost for the additional plywood and wood trim needed in the amount of \$482.00. Total cost for the project was \$10,887.41. There will also be an additional cost to paint the trim that was installed and to repair and paint some trim that was damaged by an incoming truck.

New Business

Creation of a Scope of Work Handbook for the Gate Staff

Giddens is the process of putting together a handbook using data supplied by us as well as material they created. They are having a meeting with us via phone or google on Tuesday, April 23 at 2 p.m. to review the work done so far.

The next meeting will be May 16, 2024 at 6 p.m.

Day Trips from Orange Park

By Karen Kircher

May is a great time to travel to some of the most interesting spots in Florida. Spring break is over and local schools are mostly in session. It is still cool enough to do some outdoor sightseeing as well. When was the last time you thought about traveling to some of these places Southeast of Orange Park.

Going Southeast, how about:

Saint Augustine and St Augustine Beach

Daytona and Daytona Beach

Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Center

Saint Augustine continues to be one of my favorite towns in Florida. Getting on that city tram/bus and riding around to see the sights is great. You'll meet folks from all over. There are plenty of opportunities to get off and get back on the trams as needed to see points of interest. I love all the old Flagler hotels that have mostly been converted to museums or other types of facilities. When it is open to the public, try to go see the Flagler College Cafeteria with its Tiffany-stained glass windows.

Walking through Old Towne is a treat. Literally! I love the ice cream shops and the fudge. If friends or families are visiting, St. Augustine is an easy day trip. There is convenient parking in the city parking garage. Don't forget to visit the fort, Castillo de San Marcos National Monument.

St. Augustine Beach is a sparkling beach on the Atlantic Ocean. It is part of the State Park. A few hours on the beach, along with a climb up the iconic lighthouse and a visit to the Alligator Farm brings Florida into focus.

When was you last time you visited **Daytona** or **Daytona Beach**?

If you're a car enthusiast, there are several events at the Daytona International Speedway. There are also museums, shopping, and great places to stay in the area.

Every time I've gone to **Cape Canaveral** and the **Kennedy Space Center**, I have been in awe of the sheer size of the buildings and the launch pads. We can often see the plumes of rising rockets from our lawns, but nothing can compare to watching a launch in person at the Cape. Check launch schedules. Plan your visit to explore the Space Center. It is fantastic!

Are you ready to put on your walking shoes and get out there and see Florida? I hope you have a great time!



OPCC Board of Directors Meeting

April 9, 2024 / By Bob McKinney

The main focus of our monthly meetings continues to be the review/update of the community's covenants. While this meeting review dealt with Article VI, each meeting is open for discussion on any past article. Your review and input are critical to preparing an enforceable set of rules for OPCC. Our hope is that the monthly meetings will enable us to provide a completed document that is ready for community-wide review at an open meeting within the next few months. The existing document is way past needing updating, with many references to the original developer and outdated laws.

Each month, I include a reference to ARC rules to hopefully avoid unnecessary heartburn for our residents. Any exterior work must go through the ARC for approval, or you risk the potential for added expenses. This month had the following ARC approvals: 1 fence, 2 paint projects, 1 roof replacement, 3 paver projects, 2 tree removals, 1 exterior modification (front door) and 1 patio screen enclosure.

Mulch and new flower plantings are scheduled when plants are available.

There is a committee in place that will be discussing options for revenue enhancements that will ease the need for special assessments. Mark Blakewood is the chairman, and the committee will be working on suggestions.

Our pools are open and ready for use. Please remember to clean up any mess generated and put any moved furniture back where it was originally placed. And NO GLASS containers of any type are allowed inside the cabana. It would be helpful when you are having a group gathering at the cabana that you would clean up the tables and take the garbage from the event home with you.

We hope to have an update on The Grove next month, probably by one of the principal owners.

There has been considerable work done at the gatehouse with more to come.

Next meeting: May 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Building.

Submit Your Stories

Help contribute to your community newsletter!

This newsletter is produced for Loch Rane and Orange Park Country Club. If you'd like to offer content for publication, here's how to get started:

Stories/Photography: Send your articles and/or high-resolution JPEGs to Randy Rutan at randy@randyrutan.com. Articles should be sent as Microsoft Word attachments that are saved

as ".doc" files. Photos should also be sent as attachments not embedded in an email.

The June 2024 Deadline for content: Sunday, May 19, 2024.

About this Newsletter
Publishing/Advertising:
Brittany@claytodayonline.com

2024 OPCC Board of Directors

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Publication Policy

The function of the community newsletter, "Behind the Gate" is to serve the entire gated community of Loch Rane and Orange Park Country Club and is a product of Clay Today.

Priority will be given to reporting news and activities of the community and other news and events that directly affect the residents. Second priority will be given to articles of general interest as space permits. Articles and photos must be sent to Randy Rutan at randy@randyrutan.com by the deadline date below. Due to space limitation, all articles are subject to editing.

Letters of opinion must be signed, as well as brief and in good taste. Views expressed are those of the writer and do not express the viewpoint of the publisher, OPCCOA or LRIA.

Acceptance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement or approval of any product or services by the publisher, OPCCOA or LRIA. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising that does not meet the standards of the publication.

The publisher of "Behind the Gate" agrees to indemnify and hold harmless OPCCOA and LRIA for any claims asserted against or financial liabilities incurred by them arising from commercial content of this publication or anything contained in any advertising copy, including without limitation any claims of whatever nature asserted by advertisers or potential advertisers.

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Loch Rane Board of Directors Meeting

By Brian Rogers

The April 2024 meeting of the Loch Rane Board of Directors was held on 4/23 and was sparsely attended by residents.

2024 Special Assessment

Please be on the lookout for the Special Assessment bill for 2024 as it should be arriving in mailboxes soon. The first installment of \$500 is due May 1 with a 30-day grace period. These funds go directly to repairing our aging storm drains and repaving our roads!

Street Sign/Mailbox Pressure Washing

We are soliciting bids to have all the mailbox areas and street signs pressure washed as they are looking a bit grimy! (Note: we also plan to seek bids for cleaning the tennis courts as well!)

2024 Infrastructure Repairs

- We are still obtaining bids on the repair work and repaving on Devonshire.
- We approved a bid of \$6,400 to inspect and clean out additional storm drains within the community to allow us to further prioritize which ones to reline later this year.
- Connelly and Wicker have completed their proposal for the redesign of the 5a retention pond (behind Cameron) and have submitted that to SJWMD for approval.

Tennis Court Area Weeds

The vendor who maintains the common areas has been made aware of the weed situation at the tennis courts and will address/rectify.

Fine Committee

We have been made aware of the new state laws that are changing regarding fines within HOAs and that this will require a mandatory monthly meeting of a committee of homeowners (that are not board members) to review fine appeals. Previously this committee only met when a homeowner requested a hearing. Due to this change we will need additional homeowners to volunteer to serve on this committee in order to continue to levy fines for violations.

(Note: Homeowners are not required to levy fines, but instead are there to hear appeals from other homeowners about fines levied by the BOD. This meeting is also able to be held virtually via zoom vs in person)

2024 Loch Rane Board of Directors

Brian Rogers, *President*
rogersbw@gmail.com

Chuck Bryner, *Vice-President*
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Charles Honaker, *Member at Large*
wade247@yahoo.com

2024 Steering Committee

Daniel Butler, *Chairman*

Randy Rutan, *Secretary*

Jerry Deans, *Member*

Kathy Marko, *Member*

Gary McMahill, *Member*

The Steering Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the community building. The purpose of the committee is to oversee issues of joint interest in the common areas of Loch Rane and OPCC. Homeowners of both communities are invited to attend.



DO YOU HAVE A BUCKET LIST?

By Karen Kircher

When the Total Solar Eclipse occurred on April 8 this year, many people in the media talked about Bucket Lists and that this eclipse was probably fulfilling an item on many people's lists.

It reminded me that I have written a few lists of things I want to do or accomplish. I didn't always think of these as bucket lists. Yet, I'm still young and there are some things I look forward to doing. You don't need to have a Bucket List, but as I have gone through life, I find that setting goals for myself help me to plan and move forward, stay active and enjoy the things that happen in life. Some planned and some that just happen.

So, do you have a Bucket List? What kinds of things are on your personal bucket list. Remember that a bucket list is personal to you. It is going to be different from a list by your spouse, children, friends, or co-workers. It can be short or long. You decide. Goals may sometimes be put into categories:

- Travel destinations
- Foods you want to try
- Skills or hobbies you want to learn
- Career or educational goals
- Performances or Events you want to see
- Life goals
- Fears you want to overcome
- Anything else you can think of



I am not going to share my bucket list. Your bucket list or list of goals can stay personal, or you can share it with others. It can be fun to share achieving some of your goals with someone else. Good Luck! May your bucket be full and all your hopes and desires come true.

Downsizing or Upsizing or Rightsizing your home? Allow a professional to help you!

Kenneth Hahn P.A. REALTOR®

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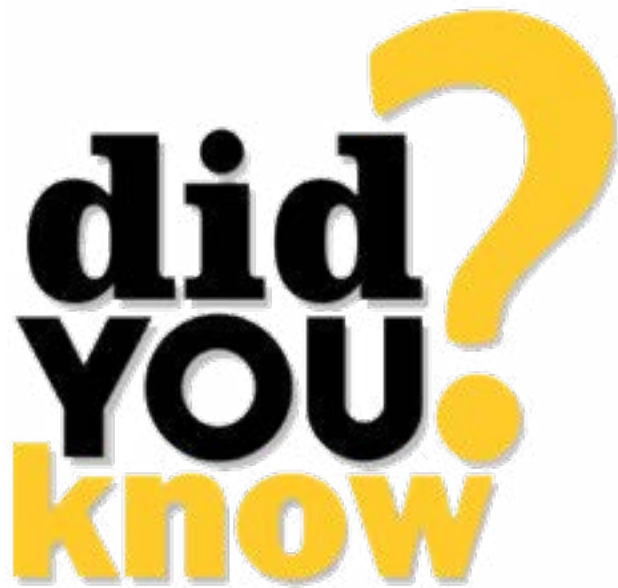
Your "Behind the Gate" Resident and Realtor



THINGS TO DO IN CLAY COUNTY THIS MONTH

www.exploreclay.com

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|------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| May 1 | Moccasin Slough Nature Hike, Moccasin Slough Park, 4393 Raggedy Point Rd, Fleming Island, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Click on link to register for this event.
https://www.claycountygov.com/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/18847/1613 | May 16 | Norman Studios Silent Film History Presentation at the Middleburg Civic Center, 2102 Palmetto St, Middleburg. Time: 6:30 p.m. |
| May 1 | Sawyer Brown at Thrasher-Horne Center, 283 College Dr, Orange Park; time: 7:30 p.m.,
https://thcenter.org/jacksonville-upcoming-events/concerts-and-comedies/sawyer-brown/ | May 16 | “Passing the Baton” play on the life of Dr. Joseph Applegate, at the Village Improvement Association, 17 Palmetto Ave, Green Cove Springs. Time: TBD
https://exploreclay.com/event/passing-the-baton/ |
| May 2-12 | “Gilligan’s Island: The Musical” at the Spotlight Center, 1809 East-West Pkwy, Fleming Island, Times vary:
https://www.spotlighteventscenter.com/spotlight-events-center-events/live-performances | May 18 | 3 rd Saturday Market in the Park, in front of City Hall, Green Cove Springs, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.
www.greencovesprings.com |
| May 3-12 | “An Experiment with an Air Pump” play at The Island Theater, 1860 Town Hall Circle, Suite 54, Fleming Island, Time: 7:30 p.m.
https://www.theislandtheater.com/ | May 18 | American Farmstead Convention, Clay County Fairgrounds, 24563 State Rd 16, Green Cove Springs. Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Family educational event to learn about homesteading and farming skills.
https://americanfarmsteadholders.com/american-farmsteadholders-events/ |
| May 3 | Green Cove Springs Food Truck Friday, Spring Park, 106 St. Johns Ave, GCS 5:00 – 9:30 p.m.
https://www.facebook.com/greencovespringsfoodtruckfriday/ | May 19 | Orange Park’s Farmers Market at City Hall, 2042 Park Ave. 10:00 am – 2:00 pm |
| May 3-5 | Vintage Market Days, Clay County Fairgrounds, 2497 State Rd 16, Green Cove Springs, Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.;
https://vintagemarketdays.com/market/jacksonville/ | May 21 | Art and Garden Show, Club Continental 32143 Astor St, Orange Park. Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
https://artguildoforangepark.org/2024/04/04/club-continental-may-21-2024/ |
| May 4 | Fleming Island Saturday Market, Village Square Shopping Center, 2245 Plantation Center Dr., Fleming Island, Time 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Over 40 vendors. Fun for children. | May 27 | Green Cove Springs Riverfest, Spring Park, 200 Spring St., Green Cove Springs. Time: 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
https://www.greencovesprings.com/290/Green-Cove-Springs-Riverfest |
| May 5 | Orange Park’s Farmers Market at City Hall, 2042 Park Ave. 10:00 am – 2:00 pm | May 31-June 9 | “Beauty and the Beast” musical at The Island Theater, 1860 Town Hall Circle, Suite 54, Fleming Island. Time: 7:30 p.m.
https://www.theislandtheater.com/productions |
| May 9 | Trace Adkins at Thrasher-Horne Center, 283 College Dr, Orange Park. Time: 7:30 p. m.
https://thcenter.org/jacksonville-upcoming-events/concerts-and-comedies/trace-adkins-somewhere-in-america-tour/ | May 31-June 23 | “Cinderella” at the Orange Park Community Theatre, 2900 Moody Ave, Orange Park; Times: vary with evening and matinee shows:
https://www.opct.info/boxoffice |
| May 11-25 | Amazing Grace Family Farms Sunflower Festival, 4251 State Road 21, Green Cove Springs, (Tentative Dates, Times to be determined.)
https://www.agcropmaze.com/sunflowers | | |
| May 11 | Orange Park After Dark (adult fun); 2042 Park Ave., Orange Park, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
https://www.townoforangepark.com/p/residents/special-events2/orange-park-after-dark | | |



WATER AEROBICS IS BACK!!

CLASSES BEGIN MAY 20th and will continue from 9 – 10 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through September at the OPCC pool.

THE MONTH OF MAY IS FREE so come enjoy great company and pretty good music.

The charge for June through September is \$15.00 a month.

The Instructor/Leader is Robin Mckenzie.

MAY FOOD TRUCK EVENTS

There will be Food Truck Fridays on 5/10 and 5/24 from 5 – 7:30 p.m. at the pool parking lot.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT ALLIGATORS IN OPCC

OPCC's Property Manager, Karen Gowen, says when you see an alligator you should call the Alligator Hotline at 866-392-4286. Then send an email to her at karen@mylrw.com so that she can call and confirm access is allowed. They usually want to speak to the homeowner to get the location, time of day the alligator is out and visible and size of the alligator.

WHEN YOU'RE A GIRL SCOUT, YOU CALL THE SHOTS

By Karen Kircher

Every Girl Scout has their own curiosity, dreams, and talents—so when they come together to decide which of the thousands of Girl Scout activities to try, the sky's the limit. Whether visiting an animal shelter, camping, hosting a dance-off, or filming a movie—they're learning to take risks, trust their gut, and team up with others for good.

The secret sauce holding it all together? Joy.

Forever friendship is a powerful thing. It's what gives Girl Scouts the confidence to be themselves, unapologetically. It's what makes them feel safe enough to try new things and cheer each other on in tough times. It's the support that can get them up on tough mornings, help them raise their hand in class, and even climb to the top of a mountain.

Girl Scouts:

- Make friends
- Have fun
- Find adventure
- Give back
- Lead others
- Earn badges & awards

Levels of Girl Scouts:

- Daisies – Grade K-1
- Brownies – Grades 2-3
- Juniors – Grades 4-5
- Cadettes – Grades 6-8
- Seniors – Grades 9-10
- Ambassadors – Grades 11-12

For more information: [Girl Scouts Gateway \(gsgateway.org\)](http://gsgateway.org)





Local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Seeks Support

By Norma Layton

As summer approaches, many of us are compiling a list of "summer reads" - those books we've been waiting to read while at the beach, or the mountains or simply the backyard! We know how important reading is to our overall well-being. Luckily, others in our community share the value of reading and are committed to spreading this joy with children by collaborating with *Dolly Parton's Imagination Library*. (DPIL) As noted on the DPIL website www.imaginationlibrary.com :
"Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and Republic of Ireland. Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly started her Imagination Library in 1995 for the children within her home county. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over 2 million free books each month to children around the world."

Locally, a professional and social organization for women educators, Beta Mu Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG) partners with the Clay Education Foundation to support this program and share the importance of literacy and its impact on the success of young children as they prepare for school. This early childhood literacy program mails free, age-appropriate books each month to children from birth until age 5, no matter their family's income. Although the books are free to the families, there is a cost involved that requires donations and fundraising from the community to stay afloat. While the Imagination Library negotiates wholesale pricing for the books, the Local Affiliates and Partners are responsible for securing funds to cover that cost plus shipping, making the books free to the child.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Clay County Zip 32043/32073 needs your help!

Generous donors, including Beta Mu members, organizations and businesses in Clay County, have kept the program alive so far, along with fundraising events. The need is growing for sponsorship and more businesses to join in to continue inspiring a love of reading. As Dolly Parton says on her website, *"Through reading, the seeds of a child's dream can be planted."* Help children realize their dreams by making a donation!

Latest statistics for DPIL of Clay County:

- Total books mailed to date: 24,049
- Current children registered: 1,291
- Number of children graduated from program: 545
- Monthly cost per child: \$2.20 - (paid by contributions from community sources)

Checks can be made out to Clay Education Foundation (in memo DPIL) and mailed to 900 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. All donations are tax deductible. Please help us to keep this program available to Clay County children.

Email dpilclaycounty@gmail.com for more information.

to the neighborhood

Jim & Julie Condra
531 Sugar Grove Place

Daniel & Cher Malta
349 Glenlyon Drive



UPDATE FROM



By Glenn Connelly



Thank you for reaching out to us for the latest news about the Grove and all the exciting things we are currently working on. We realize that our number one priority is to get the Clubhouse open and operational for the community to enjoy.

We are currently waiting on the final architectural plans to be approved before we start the interior conversions of

the Clubhouse. We anticipate having the final plans for this within the next few weeks.

You will notice that we have been actively replacing wood around the clubhouse as well as the cart barn, that is soon being converted into a 6,000 sq. ft fitness center for members of the Grove.

We have also begun the process of cleaning up the neglected landscaping around the Clubhouse. You will see that we have removed many of the bad trees already and trimmed back others. The front of the clubhouse will be receiving a landscape makeover, but the back of the

building will be a much larger renovation. This area was cleverly designed with beautiful landscape features, coupled with first class hardscape concepts to offer large parties an amazing outdoor space to celebrate.

We have completely removed the old green maintenance barn to make room for a smaller maintenance facility and additional parking for the pickle-ball members. This area is considered a construction zone and should be avoided.

The pickle ball facility has added Bocce Ball and Corn Hole to bolster the activities that will be offered. Both are great attractions for the members of the Grove to enjoy. Construction on the courts is expected to begin sometime in the month of May.

The revival of the Driving Range is on the master plan but we don't have a firm date to begin construction activities there.

Lastly, the little bridge behind the club has now been completely repaired, but for safety purposes we would like to ask the community to please refrain from crossing it until we have completed the entire project at the Club.

I hope this gives you a glimpse into our immediate plans. We look forward to providing you with future updates with additional progress.





MASTER GARDENER SERIES AT THE LIBRARY:

**“New Trends in Indoor Gardening:
Microgreens & Kitchen Gardens”**



**The Fleming Island Library
May 28th 6pm - 7pm**

**Presented by a Master Gardener Volunteer in
Cooperation with the IFAS/UF Clay County
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**The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our
events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and
listening devices, please contact whhobbs@ufl.edu at least 1 week in advance.
Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.**



**Monthly Horticulture Advice Series -
How to Manage Pests Wisely**

Monday May 20th 11:30 - 12:30

**Learn how to manage pests in your yard and garden
at this free workshop hosted by the awesome
UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Master Gardeners.**

**UF IFAS Extension Clay County
2463 State Road 16 W, Green Cove Springs, FL**



**An equal opportunity institution. If you need accommodations to
attend the event, please call (904)284-6355.**