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# SHORELINE PALMS

• C O U R I E R •

S

## May • 2026

### Issue 3 • 50<sup>th</sup> Year

### East Bay Oaks Cruisers Sailed to the Caribbean in January on the Adventure of the Seas!

Photo Credit: David MacAskill



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Vice President ..... Dave Garlock  
Secretary ..... Cathy Fenton  
Treasurer ..... C. J. Smith

Directors at Large.....Cyndi Johnson  
..... Jeanne Muncaster  
..... Claudia Hartsell  
.....Melinda Noble  
.....Ray Sears

## Chairpersons For The Year 2026

Birthdays ..... Management Office  
Bowling ..... Neal Alexander  
Entertainment Committee..... Jan Freitus  
Event Emails..... Ray & Sue Sears  
Golf..... Cheryl Meyers  
Good Times Planners..... Pat Francis  
Ladies Pokeno ..... Blanche Onley  
Librarian ..... Darlene "De" Mairson  
Monthly Media ..... C.J. Smith  
Sunrise Breakfast..... Ray Sears & Helpers  
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Sunshine ..... Dana Scott  
Welcome Committee ..... HOA



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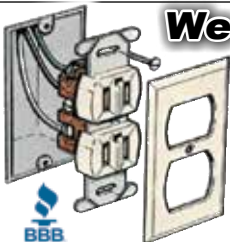
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# WEEKLY REPEAT EVENTS



First & Third Mondays	6:00 PM	Game Night (Bunco)
Second & Fourth Mondays	6:00 PM	Game Night (I Got It)
All Tuesdays	10:00 AM	Walking Club, contact Debi Graham-Leard 508-272-0235 or Joan Barrett 845-616-1303
	6:00 PM	Card Night – Texas Hold ‘Em
All Wednesdays	1:00 PM	Bowling, Seminole Lanes 8668 Park Blvd, Seminole
All Thursdays	8:00 AM	Ladies Juliet Breakfast Location varies
	7:30 AM	Men’s Romeo Breakfast, Benedicts, West Bay Largo
	10:00 AM	Walking Club, contact Debi Graham-Leard 508-272-0235 or Joan Barrett 845-616-1303
All Fridays	9:00 AM	Golf Largo Golf Course, 12500 Vonn Rd, Largo
All Saturdays	5:45 PM	BINGO





## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

---



Hey neighbors!

Is it May already? Where did the time go?

Our snowbirds are heading back to cooler climes and things are slowing down around the neighborhood.

But they aren't stopping!

For all you full-timers out there, we'll still be having activities over the Summer, so don't go away! Keep an eye on the calendar (and your email) and plan to stay in touch with your neighbors. If there's something that will get you outta the house, let me know!

We're gonna miss our northern family, for sure. And we'll look forward to their return in the Fall. But I'm excited about building up our community with the locals over the summer.

Say hi if you see me, and let's continue to get together!

Remember to add the following emails to your address book:

- [news@shorelinepalmshoa.com](mailto:news@shorelinepalmshoa.com) (we're using this to send y'all community information)
- [board@shorelinepalmshoa.com](mailto:board@shorelinepalmshoa.com) (send all your HOA questions and comments here)
- [admin@shorelinepalmshoa.com](mailto:admin@shorelinepalmshoa.com) (send all your website questions and comments here)

**These email addresses will be repeated every month along with any others deemed to be used often.**

Remember, we communicate mostly via email and our website: [shorelinepalmshoa.com](http://shorelinepalmshoa.com). Make sure you're not missing out on the good stuff: email [admin@shorelinepalmshoa.com](mailto:admin@shorelinepalmshoa.com) to be added to the list!

Your neighbor and HOA president,

Mark Francis

501-773-3226 Lot 48

## SATURDAY MORNING SUNRISE BREAKFAST

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Sunrise Breakfast's are done for the season. They will resume in the fall.

Thank you for your support.





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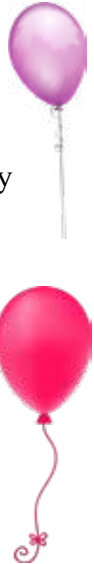
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# MAY BIRTHDAYS

Date	Resident
1	Ferguson, James
3	Male, Mary Beth
4	Cartwright, Henry
5	Cunningham, David
6	Enot, Norine
6	LLC, EquiAlt
8	Burke, Karen
9	Seifert, Nicholas
9	Veigh, Elise
10	Mitchell, Bryan
11	Pulsonetti, Patsy
11	Townsend-Fildes, Mary (Liz)
12	Taber, Jane
13	Hicks, Bonnie
14	Meyer, Valerie



Date	Resident
15	Mahl, Nadine
16	Stewart, Dennis
16	Gillis, Mary
17	Foster, Richard
17	J. Swisshelm, Dorothy
18	Turner, Richard
20	Scrimo, Ronald
22	Williams, Deborah
23	Fullone, Margaret
24	Gugliuzza, Joseph
26	Bocian, Richard
26	Schott, Melissa
26	Bermudez, Theresa
28	Thomas, Kathy
31	Celis, Angela



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## SUNSHINE

**D**ana Scott (217-519-2208, Lot #352) is the Sunshine Person for Shoreline Palms. If you have anything you would like Dana to respond to, please contact her at the number listed above.

Sympathy Cards were sent to the family of  
Carol Worsham #260 - death of Carol  
Kevin Brown #143 - death of Kevin's mother  
Dale Wilkewitz #214 - death of daughter  
Carol Knapp #85 - death of sister

## SHORELINE PALMS WALKING CLUB

**W**ith the approach of the summer heat and the departure of our snowbirds, the Walking Club will carry on. Check with the organizers below to find out if the start time has been adjusted to 9am for slightly cooler temperatures.

Frequency: each Tuesday & Thursday morning  
Time : 10 am unless it is adjusted to 9am  
Location: Clubhouse overhang  
If you have any questions, contact  
Debbie Graham-Leard 508-272-0235  
Joan Barrett 845-616-1303



## BOOK CLUB NEWS

**T**he Book Club will be suspended for the spring and summer. We will start meetings again in the fall.



## GOOD TIMES PLANNER NEWS

**H**ello Friends, Neighbors and New Residents of Shoreline Palms!  
Many of you who are new residents may not have heard what Good Times Planners organization is about. We are a social organization that meets monthly on the first Monday of each month during the season from September through April when Snowbirds arrive from their northern homes. Our meeting in the fall will be on August 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 10:00am in the Clubhouse. New officers were elected at our April meeting for the 2026-27 season. They are as follows:

President: Pat Francis  
Vice President Elaine Eckert

*...continued on page 13*

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- MAY 14, THU — LUNCH BUNCH with TODD at CATCHES...\$84
- MAY 16, SAT — FISHERMAN'S VILLAGE - Day of Celtic Music. \$79
- MAY 22, FRI — AMERICA 250: STARS & STRIPES FOREVER. \$124
- MAY 23, SAT — "SOUNDS OF '67" at the Broadway Palm. \$179
- MAY 29, FRI — "HAPPY TOGETHER" 7:00 PM at Ruth Eckerd Hall. \$114

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Secretary: Cyndi Johnson

Corresponding Secretary: Sue Sears

All ladies of Shoreline Palms are invited to attend the Good Times planning meetings. Our purpose is to plan events and work alongside the HOA to host activities and food events for all our residents. We have many new residents and would like you to be involved. Volunteers of the group plan and assist with food events and other activities. Activities may include special dinners, hot dog/hamburger nights, Saturday Sunrise Breakfasts, Monday Game Nights, Bingo, Rummage Sales, Golf Cart Poker Runs, Bus Trips, Holiday get-togethers, Christmas Parade (12/18) and House Lighting contest (12/20) to name just a few. These events will all be explained in the Media as the event becomes available. We are always open to hearing about some new ideas of events that would make Shoreline Palms enjoyable to many. **In the Clubhouse there is a TV on the wall opposite the kitchen listing all events that are going on in the park and of course, your monthly Media book should have these listed.**

For those of you here during the summer we will continue with the Poker Runs, if the interest continues, and support the HOA by helping with special Holiday meals.



## GOOD TIMES PLANNER'S LADIES LUNCHEON

The Good Times Ladies Luncheon are not formally scheduled through the summer months but if anyone is interested in joining in a monthly luncheon, please contact Pat Francis @ 501-773-2178 or Elaine Eckert @ 727-479-7046 to express interest.

## HOT DOG/HAMBURGER NIGHTS

The hot dog/hamburger night will continue through the month of May. The first will be held on Tuesday, May 12. The second will be held on Sunday, May 24 as a Memorial Day celebration (see separate article under Monthly Dinners). There will be special prices on this day. Both events will be 4:30 to 6:00 pm.

Menu:

1/3 <sup>rd</sup> lb Hamburger or Cheeseburger	\$6.00
Quarter lb. Hot Dog	\$4.00
Chip Varieties	\$0.50
Soda	\$1.50
Ice Cream Varieties	\$1.50



may

## GOLF CART/BICYCLE POKER RUNS

These fun events are usually held on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. In May, those dates are Saturday, May 9th and Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have seen many new golf carts sitting in driveways and riding down the streets. For those of you who have not joined in the fun of the Saturday morning Poker Runs and are here during the summer months, we invite you to join in on the fun and possibly win some money. Entry fee is \$5.00 per golf cart or bicycle, with high hand, and low hand prizes awarded. All monies taken in go back to the winners. There is also a 50/50 which costs \$5.00 per ticket. 50% goes to the winner.

The results from March 28 are as follows:

High Hand	\$60 Maureen Miklos #181
Low Hand	\$40 Gary Scott #352
50/50	\$65 Dan & Dolly Farrand #208

The results from April 11 are as follows:

High Hand	\$66 Pat Francis #48
Low Hand	\$42 Georgiann Leone #358
50/50	\$75 Bev Tardiff #95



A vote will be taken in May on what frequency the runs will occur during the summer months 1) once a month or 2) continue with 2 a month?

## NOTE TO RESIDENTS:

We are going to continue “I Got It” through the summer as long as there is interest. The entertainment committee who has handled “I Got It” for the winter is leaving to return to their northern homes so there will be new hands-on deck for the summer to run the games. There will not be any pizza for the summer months. We will start at 6:00 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday and follow the same format. The entertainment committee deserves a big thank you for bringing this new game to the community and their ongoing support of it. I also understand that there will be some new games when they return next fall.

## File Folders

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## Golf Cart Registration

See something missing in this picture of one of our residents riding through the community? Of course, there are no Lot Number or Registration Decal on the cart. This is a regulation in our community. This is done for a couple of reasons, first, it allows us to identify the misuse of these power vehicles in case one of your family or guests is using your cart in an unsafe manner. At the time of registration, we record the Serial Number of the cart that would help in the event your cart is stolen. Please contact Ray Sears at Lot 207, 813-215-4800 or Rasers@aol.com to get your vehicle registered.



By the way, Is that George Bush on the cart waving?

## OH, BY THE WAY

### Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a federal holiday observed in the United States on the final Monday of May each year. The purpose of this day is to honor and remember the individuals who have lost their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Commemorative activities typically include visits to cemeteries and memorials, the organization of parades, and gatherings with family and friends. Additionally, Memorial Day is often regarded as marking the unofficial commencement of the summer season in the United States.

At Shoreline Palms, this time of year also signals the departure of many seasonal residents returning north for cooler, and often less severe, weather—prompting us to wonder how we ever convinced ourselves that year-round Southwest Florida was the ideal climate.

## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

The Entertainment Committee would like to thank everyone for their support this year. We really enjoyed seeing everyone getting involved. We have booked 3 bands for the next season, a Neil Diamond and guest show, and have added some new things to the calendar. We will continue I Got It with some new fun twists, the soup contest will be held again and looking into a new game to bring into the park, Music Bingo. We will also be trying a welcome back Pub Party with fun prizes. We hope everyone will enjoy it and try some new things. Have a great summer, we can't wait to see you all again!!!



2026-2027 Entertainment Committee

Jan Freitas, Chairperson

Sue Alexander Sue Graziano

Sharon King Diane Novelli

Sandi Pettigrew Diana Ricci

## MAY MONTHLY CLUBHOUSE DINNER

### **S**horeline Palms Memorial Day Event

On Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> we will pay tribute to our Service Members who have given their bodies and souls to protect and defend our Country and God given rights. We will meet at our clubhouse for a brief prayer and celebrate with our popular Hot Dogs and Hamburger's served with Potato or Macaroni Salad, Chips and a Soft Drink. The Holiday price for all this scrumptious menu is \$5.00. No ticket is required, just show up at the Clubhouse anytime from 4:30-6:00 PM, come to the kitchen window and order your choice of these menu items.



## **GREETINGS SHORELINE PALMS RESIDENTS!! SCOOP HERE!! SPEAKING OF SPORTS.....**

### **H**ighlights –

Basketball and football are finished, which leaves Tampa Bay Ray's baseball, hockey, and golf as the main focal points of TV viewing. The Rays are not doing well (poor bullpen performance), the Lightning have not been able to solve the teams that are ahead of them (Buffalo, Carolina, Montreal) so until they do, I don't see them going too far in the playoffs. Golf is too spread out among the majors to generate continuous excitement. I will say that my Michigan Wolverines' basketball team gave me something to brag about – a national championship!!

With our northern residents leaving to go back to the great white North, Shoreline Palms sports is winding down. Golf and Pickleball seem to be on the back burner which is understandable since the weather will soon resemble death valley. But there will still be residents who brave the elements to get some exercise, which is a good thing.



## **Shoreline Palms Bowling Highlights**

**T**he Shoreline Palms bowling season ended on March 25<sup>th</sup>. As usual, our bowlers acquitted themselves very well. Out of the top 10 finishers, Shoreline Palms teams placed 4,5,6, and 7 in the standings. Standout performances in the team categories were turned in by yo-yo's -2<sup>nd</sup> high scratch game (728), niners- 3<sup>rd</sup> high scratch game (723). Individual hurrahs go to Tim Newton -high handicap game (303), Glen Lyday – 2<sup>nd</sup> high handicap game (299), Doug Ricci 3<sup>rd</sup> high handicap game (297)

Let's not forget the ladies!! Sue Howarth 4<sup>th</sup> high handicap series (507), Mary Newton 3<sup>rd</sup> high handicap game (283), Sue Howarth high handicap series (807), Mary Newton 3<sup>rd</sup> high handicap series (770).



Congratulations to all our keglers and we hope they repeat their performances next year. If anyone wishes to join our compatriots in fun and competition, drop me an email (nilerivers@gmail.Com) and I'll forward it to Naomi.

**Quote of the month:** “When you go into court you are putting your fate into the hands of twelve people who weren’t smart enough to get out of jury duty.”  
*Norm Crosby*

**Answer to last month’s Trivia Question:** THE NATION’S IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS WERE STORED AT FORT KNOX DURING WORLD WAR II. GLAD TO HEAR BOB “THE ANSWER MAN” MCAULIFFE IS STILL IN HIS ELEMENT AFTER HIS TRAVAILS. HE GOT IT RIGHT.

### **This month’s Trivia Question**

**I**n the old time “our gang” movies, what actors played spanky and alfalfa?



### **SHORELINE PALMS A-LISTER NEWS.**

**T**he Shoreline Palms community would like to give Neal Alexander “Scoop” a huge Thank You for handling the Monthly Media for the past 14 years. Neal has graciously agreed to continue to contribute articles to the media as I (CJ Smith Lot #155) try to fill his shoes. Neal & Sue will also continue to handle the distribution of the media. Neal has kept the Media going with his diligence and dedication. If you pass him in the park, give him a “Thank You”. I know that I have certainly enjoyed the monthly media information and stories. As the new media coordinator, if you have any items of interest or suggestions, please email me at [cjsmith090559@gmail.com](mailto:cjsmith090559@gmail.com).



# Did You Know?



May is commonly referred to as the month of natural purity and beauty, representative of the Greek Goddess it was named after, Maia. This was because of flowers like roses, tulips, and lilies tend to bloom most in the month of May.

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10	11 Lawn Mowing Game Night - 6:00 pm	Hot Dog Hamburger 4:30 to
<b>Mother's Day</b>		
17	18 Lawn Mowing Bunco - 6:00 pm	
24 Memorial Day Hot Dog / Hamburger Night - 4:30 to 6:00 pm	25	
<b>Pentecost</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>	
31		

# Shoreline Palms

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2
5	6 Pokeno	7 <i>National Day of Prayer</i>	8	9 Golf Cart Poker Run - 11:00 am (Registration starts at 10:30 am)
12 Burger Night 6:00 pm	13 Pokeno	14 <i>Ascension Day</i>	15	16
19	20 Pokeno	21	22	23 Golf Cart Poker Run - 11:00 am (Registration starts at 10:30 am)
26 Lawn Mowing	27 Pokeno	28	29	30
				<p style="text-align: center;">Pokeno</p> <p>           1 2 3 4 5 6            7 8 9 10 11 12            13 14 15 16 17 18            19 20 21 22 23 24            25 26 27 28 29 30         </p>



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22. Detail
23. Not new
24. Low point
26. Worldwide
30. Stash
32. Scrutinize
33. Pomp
37. Pretentious person
38. Desert watering holes
39. You (archaic)
40. Idioms
42. Offering little or no hope
43. Twiddled one's thumbs
44. Purchasers
45. Chocolate source
47. Not thin
48. Roman robe
49. Hyperactive
56. Wicked
57. Knockout
58. Custom
59. Peddle
60. Distinctive flair
61. Genus of heath
62. 3
63. Break
64. Adjust again

## DOWN

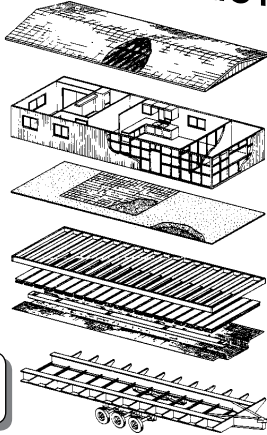
1. An international trade treaty
2. Towards the back
3. Diva's solo
4. Portent or omen
5. Navy jacket
6. Planet
7. African sheep
8. Nerd
9. Flavoring extracts
10. Without intention
11. Hindu loincloth
12. Scuba user
13. Flower stalk
21. Addition
25. Revelation response
26. Sharp intake of breath
27. Moon goddess
28. Scent
29. According to the Bible
30. Enclosed
31. Anagram of "Sage"
33. Rate
34. You (archaic)
35. Big laugh
36. Guffaws
38. Witness
41. American Dental Association
42. Meat retailer
44. Sheep sound
45. Shroud
46. Nimble
47. Not back
48. Exam
50. Low-lying area
51. Nestling hawk
52. Empty weight
53. Nile bird
54. Moral weakness
55. French for "State"



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## The absent-minded composer

---

The famous composer Ludwig von Beethoven once went to a restaurant for some dinner, but being very absent-minded he forgot what he actually came there for. A waiter asked him several times what he would like to order, but Beethoven paid him no attention.

After an hour Beethoven called the waiter and asked him, “How much do I pay?”

The waiter replied, “Sir, you haven’t ordered anything yet. What I can do for you?”

Frustrated, Beethoven snapped back, “Oh, just bring whatever you want and leave me alone!”

## Einstein: A genius with a human touch

---

Albert Einstein was a scientific genius, and stories about him are legendary. Three stories illustrate that he was as human as the rest of us:

- When Einstein went to Princeton University in 1953, someone asked what he would need for his office. His reply: “A desk, some pads and a pencil, and a large wastebasket to hold all of my mistakes.”
- A student visited Einstein in his Princeton office one day with a copy of this year’s final exam in his hand. “Professor, all the questions on this year’s test are the same as last year!” “Yes,” Einstein replied, “but this year all the answers are different.”
- After finishing a paper, Einstein and his assistant could find only one paper clip in his office to hold the pages together. Unfortunately, it was bent out of shape and impossible to use. They searched the desk for something to use as a tool to straighten the clip, and found a full box of paper clips in one drawer. Instead of taking one of those clips, Einstein used one as a tool to straighten out the bent clip.

The assistant asked why he didn’t just use one of the fresh clips. Einstein answered, “Once I am set on a goal it becomes difficult to deflect me.”

## Quote

---

To hell with facts! We need stories!  
—Ken Kesey

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## A lesson in taking chances

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A story from the book *Art and Fear*, by David Bayles and Ted Orland (Image Continuum Press), illustrates the power of taking chances and risking failure when you're trying to achieve something of quality:

On the first day of class, a ceramics teacher announced that he was putting his students into two groups. Half the students would be graded on quantity of works produced, the other half on the quality of just one work. On the final day of class, the instructor looked at the pots from both groups and realized that the best pots—those with the most creative designs and those that seemed most beautiful—all came from the group graded on quantity.

As the authors put it: “It seems that while the ‘quantity’ group was busily churning out piles of work—and learning from their mistakes—the ‘quality’ group had sat theorizing about perfection, and in the end had little more to show for their efforts than grandiose theories and a pile of dead clay.”

## Take a fresh approach to solving problems

---

You don't always want the same old solutions to everyday problems. Sometimes you want to try something different. From the *Fast Company* website comes these ideas for finding a fresh approach:

- **Rephrase the question.** The way you frame the problem may limit your options. Teach yourself to expand the scope. Instead of, “How can we throw a great birthday party for Ted?” Ask, “What can we do to make this a memorable birthday?”
- **Look for bad ideas.** Seeking perfect solutions can put too much pressure on your creativity. Give yourself a break and try coming up with some bad ideas. You'll get them out of the way quickly, and sometimes a bad idea can lead to something new and exciting.
- **Challenge your assumptions.** Take a hard look at your basic beliefs about the situation. Is the customer really always right? Is the lowest price necessarily the best deal? Turning your assumptions on their heads can suggest a different direction to go in.

## Quotes

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There are painters who transform the sun to a yellow spot, but there are others who with the help of their art and their intelligence, transform a yellow spot into sun.  
—Pablo Picasso



## Report: Fiber may prevent breast cancer

---

Parents and young women concerned about breast cancer may want to take note of a study from the journal *Pediatrics*: Scientists have discovered that adolescents and young women can significantly reduce their chances of getting breast cancer later in life by eating a high-fiber diet early on.

Researchers tracked more than 90,000 women over a period of years. Women 27-44 answered questions relating to their diet as adults and in high school. The data they collected about fiber consumption, after screening out other factors like race and family history of breast cancer, showed that women who had eaten high amounts of fiber had a 12-19 percent lower chance of getting breast cancer. In addition, women who reported a high fiber intake during their high school years were found to have a 16 percent lower risk of suffering breast cancer overall, as well as a 24 percent lower risk of being diagnosed before menopause.

Fiber from fruits and vegetables appear to offer the most health benefits.

## Keep your workplace a healthy zone

---

From Ebola to the Zika virus, new diseases seem to be rising every day to threaten our health. If you're a manager, you should do everything you can to keep your workforce safe from illness. Take these steps to minimize the risks:

- **Adjust absentee policies.** Many organizations still penalize workers for taking sick leave. Let your employees stay home when they're sick rather than risk infecting others.
- **Promote hygiene.** Post restroom signs urging workers to wash their hands frequently. Instruct cleaning services to wipe down telephone receivers as well as desk surfaces.
- **Plan ahead.** Consider how you'd respond if your department experienced a 30 percent absentee rate. How can you ensure that essential functions are covered? You can't stop bad things from happening, but you can take steps to keep them from crippling your organization.

## Quotes

---

Healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have.  
—Winston Churchill

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## Try these year-round common cold remedies

**Y**ou can catch a cold any time of the year, no matter what the weather is. Although you can't cure it, you can relieve its symptoms with some simple remedies. Try these:

- **Honey.** Honey mixed with tea or warm lemon water can relieve coughing and sore throat.
- **Zinc.** Zinc supplements taken within the first few days of having a cold can shorten your illness and could prevent a cold in the first place.
- **Hot liquids.** Hot tea or water can loosen up congestion in your chest and sinuses.
- **Salt water.** Evidence suggests that rinsing your mouth with salty water can clear up nasal congestion and unclog your sinuses.
- **Vitamin C.** Evidence that vitamin C can help you avoid or shorten colds is mixed, although research does hint that it may be effective for those with a vitamin C deficiency.



## Exercise: More isn't necessarily better

**L**osing weight is just a matter of exercising, right? Actually, that may not be the case, according to a study of exercise and weight loss reported on the CNN website.

Researchers looked at 332 adults in the U.S., Jamaica, and Africa, measuring their activity level over a week. The volunteers displayed a variety of exercise levels from sedentary to active. Although those who exercised and were active more burned away more calories than the others, their activity tended to hit a plateau—after a certain level, more exercise didn't produce more weight loss.

Switching exercises helped a little, since using different muscles can make your body use more energy. But in the long run, a combination of exercise and a reduced-calorie diet may be your best bet for losing those unwanted pounds.





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## Monthly

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**ALS Awareness Month.** ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, is caused by the death of neurons, leading to stiff muscles, twitching, and gradually worsening weakness. No cure is known, but this month is an opportunity to spotlight and support research to fight this deadly disease.

**Better Hearing Month.** Approximately 36 million Americans suffer from some form of hearing loss—and more than half are under 65. Visit an audiologist today to learn how to protect your hearing and ensure that your ears stay healthy throughout your life.

**National Military Appreciation Month.** As designated by Congress, National Military Appreciation Month celebrates the history of our armed forces and recognizes the brave people who have served in every branch of military service. It also allows Americans to educate each generation on the historical impact of our military through community participation.

**National Bike Month.** Sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists and celebrated in communities from coast to coast, National Bike Month is a chance to showcase the many benefits of bicycling and encourage more folks to giving biking a try.

## Weekly

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**Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week, May 3-9.** A yearly event aimed at raising awareness of the issues and causes integral to the children’s mental health field nationwide. Sponsored by the National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health, this year’s theme is “Healthy Families, Resilient

**Food Allergy Awareness Week, May 10-16.** Food allergies affect up to 15 million people in the United States, including one in 13 children. Whether you’re newly diagnosed or brushing up on the facts, learning all you can about the condition is the key to staying safe and living well with food allergies.

**American Craft Beer Week, May 11-17.** American craft brewers are small, independent, and traditional. The average American lives within 10 miles of a brewery, and the United States now has more beer styles and brands to choose from than any other market in the world. Enjoy a cold one (responsibly) all month long.

## Teens and social media: What's really going on?

If you think your kid is checking his or her smartphone every 30 seconds, you may not be far off. A study of more than 200 eighth-graders reported on the CNN website found that the heaviest social media users check the Internet more than 100 times daily, even when they're in school. What are they looking for?

- Checking their online posts for comments and “likes”: 61 percent.
- Seeing whether friends are doing things without them: 36 percent.
- Making sure friends aren't saying mean things about them: 21 percent.



Fifteen percent of teens in the study reported receiving inappropriate photos. And 94 percent of parents were unaware of the amount of fighting that occurs on social media.

## The workplace is becoming more flexible

Flexible working arrangements have caught on big time in the United States. A study by Flexjobs, an online service specializing in telecommuting and flexible jobs, reported the following trends:

- **Employers are fairly casual about productivity.** Although 89 percent of employers support workplace flexibility, 64 percent have no formal policies regarding telecommuting and flexibility programs, and only 3 percent actively monitor such factors as performance, engagement, and productivity.
- **Health factors are a major driver of flexibility.** Flexjobs found that 32 percent of respondents to their survey believe flexible working arrangements would benefit their health; 29 percent are interested in flexibility in order to have more time for exercise.



## Caregiving has its rewards

As Americans live longer, families are feeling a heavier burden in the caregiving area. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that some 40.5 million Americans are acting as unpaid caregivers for older family members. Most just help one person, but 22 percent are responsible for two people and 7 percent provide help to three or more. Most caregivers are between the ages of 45 and 64 (23 percent), but 17 percent of people older than 65 act as caregivers as well.

The demands may be high, but many Americans find the work worthwhile. Yes, 32 percent describe caregiving as stressful, but 88 percent say helping out an elderly loved one is a rewarding experience.

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