CountrySide Lakes

941 Village Trail • Port Orange, FL 32127 • (386)756-3480

Veterans Jerry Kulesia, Pat Eltouni, Larry King, and Robert Reed depart for the meritorious "Honor Flight' to Washington, DC

NOVEMBER 2026

Message from the Executive Director

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, our residents were asked what they are most thankful for. Naturally, family, friends, good health, long life, and even our senior living community were common sentiments.

In reading the survey responses on the next page, I was touched by the profound love of God and gratitude for all the blessings bestowed by Him.

Thanking God at Thanksgiving is a tradition rooted in scripture that centers on acknowledging Him as the ultimate provider of life, family, and blessings. We say a simple prayer of praise for His goodness, love, and daily blessings.

Love of country was also expressed throughout the survey. Residents are proud to be Americans and cherish living in the greatest country on earth. This is fitting since Veterans Day will be celebrated this month. Veterans are heroes at CountrySide Lakes and we honor them on Veterans Day and throughout the year.

As we gather this Thanksgiving to ask for the Lord's blessings, let us give praises to His name and thank Him for peace, strength, and the well being of our veterans.

Management Team

Kris Williams	-	Executive Director
Peter Pakuris	-	Senior Marketing Director
Julie Smith	-	Nursing Director
Steven Bernstein	-	Executive Chef
Aimee Wilson	-	Activities Director
Danladi Maidugu	-	Maintenance Director
Celia Laureano	-	Housekeeping Director
Chad Owens	-	Physical Therapy Director
Janet Munson	-	Business Office Manager

Thankful for ...

"God's presence in my life" - Barbara Potter

"Being alive" - George Anderson

"God has me under his wings and takes care of me, so nothing to worry about" - Pat Anderson

"I was born in the USA" - Karol Elmer

"Knowing for sure where I am going when I die" - Kathy Santi

"Good health and happiness" - Deena Stein

"The freedom to express myself" - Claudette Krupnick

"The many blessings received and to share living our days with family and friends" - Sue Mossman

"My wife, my best life long friend, thank you Lord for another day together" - Herb Mossman

"Living in the best country in the world" - Stephanie Rij

"I have been able to see much of our world, six continents and 50 states" - Ginny Wangensteen

"Living in America with our freedom and opportunities to worship God " - Abby Herring

"My Savior, Wife and Life" - Mike Helland

"My husband who is such a help to me" - Marie Helland

"The Lord has granted me many of my dreams and ambitions" - Michael Lynn

"Being an American" - Joan Lonergan

"God given blessings in my life and learnng to take one day at a time" - Dale Stump

"Having both sides of my family over for Thanksgiving" - Betty Ann Tucker

"All the wonderful people who have come in to my life" - George Phillips

"Blessings of a long life" - Norma Rupp and Linda Kerr

"Having good friends and drinking buddies at Dunkin" - David Conley

"God loves me and no one can take that away" - Pat Krieger

"My college education has enabled me to live a very fulfilling life" - Melanie Buccola

"Having an RN spouse who helped me in many ways in my businesses" - Jim Brooker

"My significant other and my health" - John Adams

"Everyday the Lord has given to me and my family" - Mary Huber

"Being born in the greatest country in the world" - Carolyn Caputo

"Marrying my Elaine 41 years ago" - Robert Reed

"Spending time with relatives I don't see too often" - Valeria Lucas

"Jesus and his gift of eternal life" - Ralph Mueller

"Jesus died on the cross to save me from my sins" - Helen Mueller

"My husband for taking care of me during my illness in the last few months" - Janet Thomas

"Being alive, happy, and financially comfortable enough to live here" - Joan Daigneault

"Living at CountrySide Lakes" - Libby Parisi, Lefki Demopoulos, Anne Cosenza, Rebecca Hutto, Stewart Spar, Marsha Spar, Sandy Beaulieu, Alice Pelphrey, Barbara Young, Rosalie McClintock. Kathy McMinn

Residents		Staff	
11/2	Sandra Moody	11/7	Treazu're Sims
11/5	Sue Wright	11/18	Zach Gundrum
11/7	Jim Barlow	11/18	Glenda Paragas
11/7	Dan O'Rourke	11/19	Liz Padilla
11/13	Sally Engle	11/30	Dawna Fabula
11/14	Jean Dexter	11/30	Linda Fenty
11/18	Alice Taufer		
11/21	Kathy Hawk		
11/25	Bettie McMullen		
11/27	Jane O'Connell		
11/28	Bill Thibeau		

Turkey Talk

The first feast was in 1621 and lasted three days with 50 Pilgrims and 90 Wampanoag Indians who dined together - the menu did not include turkey!

President Abraham Lincoln officially proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863. Congress in 1941 set it for the fourth Thursday of November.

The turkey "pardoning" tradition began with President John F. Kennedy who was the first to spare a turkey.

Americans cook 46 million turkeys on Thanksgiving of which 175 turkey dinners will be served here at CSL

Employee of the Month

Susanne Harshman has been our deciated overnight Med Tech for the past year. She returned to CountrySide Lakes after having worked here originally 12 years ago.

Born in Michigan and raised in Indiana, Susanne moved to Port Orange when she was16 years old. She graduated from Spruce Creek High School and attended Daytona State College where she made the Dean's List. She has been a Med Tech for 17 years.

Susanne resides in Daytona Beach with her fiance Justin and her two daughters ages 12 and 14 and a son with autism who recently celebrated his 4th birthday . When Susanne has a little precious time to herself, she is an avid video gamer and self proclaimed "nerd genre" as well as a "Trekkie" and "Cosplayer".

Susanne plans to return to school to become a Registered Nurse. Good luck and congratulations!

Resident Profile

Stevie Graham is a compassionate person who throughout her life has shown kindness to those who are not treated kindly by others.

Born 92 years ago at Halifax Hospital, Stevie's father was killed in a car accident when her mother was two months preganant. In his honor, she was given his name Steve. Her legal name is Steve but she has always been called Stevie.

After graduating from Seabreeze High School, Stevie attended Brenau College in Georgia. Afterwards, she got a job in hospital medical records at the same hospital in Daytona Beach where she was born.

Stevie met the love of her life, Arthur Franklin Graham, who was a park ranger. They were married for 69 years before his passing and had traveled all over the south, living in multiple towns where Arthur was assigned by the National Park Service.

Stevie is the proud mother of two sons, four grandchildren and a great grandchild.

As a devoted wife, she was the quintessential "great woman behind every great man". She dedicated her life to Arthur and his work but found sewing, needlework and quilting to be her personal calling.

Stevie has been an accomplished quilter for over 30 years. She loves living at CountrySide Lakes and soon after moving here from her house in Pelican Bay, she joined our sewing club.

As always, Stevie continues to spread kindness. She and the sewing club have quilted lovely lap blankets for people in wheelchairs at the Veterans Hospital. Also, she invites anyone who needs something sewed or repaired to bring it to the sewing club.

Thank you Stevie and God bless.

Happy Thanksgiving from "100 Club" members Ann Lombardo, Jean Dolen, and Libby Parisi along with other thankful residents Pat Eltouni, Nancy Fleet, Fran Grisley, George Anderson, Pat Anderson, Melanie Buccola, and Joan Lonergan

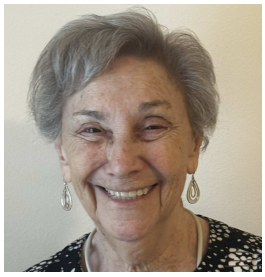
Welcome NEWEST RESIDENTS

John Adams A109

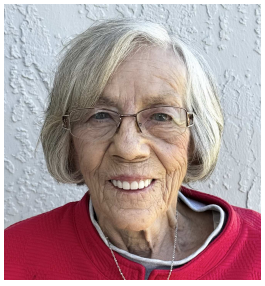
Mary Huber A109

Marcela Webb B218

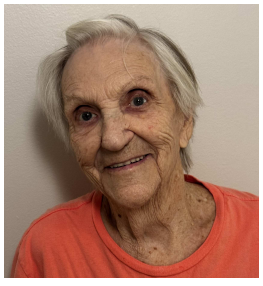
Sylvia Binkaukas B316



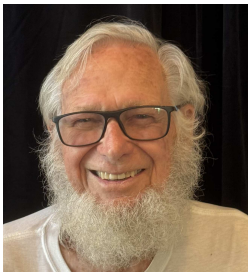
Sheila Rosenthal A210



Rosie Shaw B100

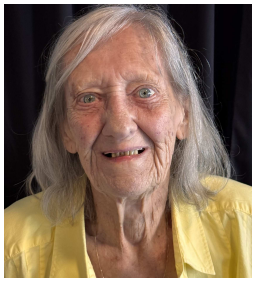


Scottie Fenton B314



Steve Dodge B203

Marjorie Dodge B203



Marion Polizzi A202

Joyce Martucci B310