



# INSIDE SUNSHINE NEWSLETTER

## February 2025

### SEPO Board

Hello SEPO Residents:

This will be my last SEPO Newsletter greeting!! My term is over in February and I wish the new Board Members the best of luck!!

It has been quite a year, both Board wise and personally. But, it looks like we made it through on both counts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board Members and also members of our community for their support. It is still the Best Community Ever!!!!!!! Thank You!!

- Jim Kennedy, SEPO President

### Election Committee (Chairperson - 2025 Election)

We had a successful Election Ballot Packet pickup (library) /delivery (door to door) on Jan 11 & 13. On Jan 14, of the 306 packets we only needed to mail 87. That helped decrease SEPO postage expense by almost \$500. I would particularly like to thank (1) the Election Committee, who were responsible for creating and distributing the election materials and (2) everyone who picked them up. I'm hoping all packets mailed have been received by now.

The next election related event was the "Meet & Greet" session on Jan 15. The Board Nominees introduced themselves and told us why they are running for the Board. Then they answered residents' questions. I personally want to thank all of them for stepping up. I know my time on the Board was very rewarding and I LEARNED A LOT. And throughout the entire session, we ate goodies provided by the Women's Club.

You can access the audio recording here:

[https://video.wixstatic.com/video/2851bf\\_68651f215db942aea49a85f59a4af4ad/720p/mp4/file.mp4](https://video.wixstatic.com/video/2851bf_68651f215db942aea49a85f59a4af4ad/720p/mp4/file.mp4)

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

Ballots must be turned in no later than 1:00 PM on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. The Ballot Box is in front of the SEPO office. On February 18, the Election Committee will be back at work determining if we have a Quorum and can proceed with counting the votes. If yes, I will report the results at the 3 PM portion of the Annual meeting.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone.

- Beth Parrish, Election Committee Chairperson

### Communications

#### SEPO EMAILS:

1. Although it's been quite some time since Google changed their policies which, in turn, prohibited me from using gmail to send SEPO emails, I wanted to remind everyone to be sure and send your SEPO email requests to [sepoenews@sunshinecountryclub.com](mailto:sepoenews@sunshinecountryclub.com).
2. I am currently working with Frank Hull to see if we can get him set up to send SEPO emails while I'm gone (Feb 1 through Feb 9). We ran into a glitch on Friday which we will hopefully resolve this week. I will let everyone know if you will or won't be receiving SEPO emails while I'm gone.
3. I've been attempting to adhere to my 'overnight' email process. But if you do have an email that needs to be sent immediately, please state that when you send it to me and also texting me about it would be super



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(314-960-6710). Contrary to public opinion I don't just sit at the computer waiting for emails to come in. 😊

**SUNSHINE WEBSITE:** As always, if you ever see anything incorrect or missing on the website, please let me know and I will get it fixed. Some of you may have noticed (or not), I'm way behind on keeping certain pages updated. Little things like the 2025 SEPO Election, the Feb Newsletter and my upcoming cruise have cut into my website updating time. I plan to get back to it more timely come February.

As a reminder, guidelines for SEPO communications processes are here:

<https://www.sunshinecountryclub.com/communication-guidelines>.

**As always, anyone interested in helping me out with SEPO Communications, please contact me.**

**I promise everyone, most of all myself, I won't be doing this forever.**

*- Beth Parrish, SEPO Communications*

### **Golf: Good Neighbor Day Golf Tournament (GNDGT)**

SEPO Priority Registration has been programmed for our **39th - 2025 Good Neighbor Day Golf Tournament** for Monday Feb 17, 2025.

Registration continues through Wednesday, February 19th in our library. Registration will occur from 1:00 – 4:00 PM on those days noted.

We limit play to a maximum of 144 players.

**Please register early, on the first day, so you do not get locked out of this historic event.**

**Mark your calendars now!**

**Golfers must be 55 or older.**

This is a 27-hole, 3-day, **(Feb 27, 28, Mar 1)**, scramble with Prizes and an award dinner.

The cost per golfer is \$60. Checks should be made out to SEPO.

Guests of a participating golfer can attend the award dinner for \$20. Monetary and door prizes will be awarded.

*- Tony Tramel, Chair (Cell 337-693-6344)*

*The Good Neighbor Day Golf Tournament Committee*



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A poster for the 39th Good Neighbor Day Golf Tournament. The background is a silhouette of a golfer in mid-swing against a bright, sunlit sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**39<sup>th</sup>**  
**Good Neighbor Day  
Golf Tournament**

**Feb 27 – Mar 1, 2025**  
Sunshine Country Club  
1957 W. Michigan Dr  
Harlingen, TX 78550

Age 55+  
*27 Hole Scramble  
with Prizes, &  
Award Dinner*  
*Price: \$60*

For more information  
contact:

**Randy Davis 214-783-4604**  
**Dick Parrish 314-402-0219**

**Registration Is Feb 17<sup>th</sup>  
thru Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 PM, In  
Sunshine Estates Library,  
Registration closes 4 PM  
Feb 19, 2024**

### Womens Golf: GNDGT Lunch

The Women's Golf League will once again have a lunch stand on Thursday, Feb 27, and Friday, Feb 28, of the Good Neighbor Tournament. Retzlaff Hall will be open for lunch from 11 to 2 for all golfers and any Sunshine resident that would like to attend. Thurs we will serve Brats, hotdogs, chips and soda or water for \$7.00. On Friday we will serve sloppy Joe's, chips and sodas or water for \$7. Come one, come all.

- Terry DeBackere

### Women's Club: From the President

Sunshine Country Club Estates Women's Club is the Heartbeat of Our Community. Our Women's Club stands as a beacon of hope and empowerment. With diverse backgrounds and passions, the members contribute vibrant energy and innovative ideas that echo through our community. Let's explore the multifaceted impact of our Women's Club and the ripples of change they create.

With a generous \$2,000 contribution from the Women's Club, our gated community entrance is blossoming into a stunning centerpiece that reflects the beauty and unity of our neighborhood. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the dedicated members of both the Women's Club and the Gardening Club, alongside Tom Perrier, whose vision and tireless efforts have been instrumental in bringing this project to life. Their collaborative spirit not only beautifies our landscape but also strengthens our community bonds, reminding us of the power of teamwork and shared commitment to enhancing our living space. Stay tuned for more



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updates as we watch our gateway transform into a vibrant welcome that embodies the essence of our community!

A special thanks to Cindy and Rich Hulswit for their dedicated research into safer and more comfortable chairs and benches for our beloved small dog park. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance this cherished space, the Women's Club will be discussing a potential donation to upgrade the seating area at our upcoming club meeting next month. We invite all members to share their thoughts and ideas, ensuring our dog park remains a welcoming haven for everyone!

At the heart of the Women's Club is a commitment to cultivating a positive experience for everyone in our community. We strive to foster friendships, host engaging events, and sprinkle a bit of fun into our lives. Through our various activities and generous donations, we aim to make a meaningful impact on every individual we serve. Our events are designed not only to entertain but also to create connections that strengthen our community bonds, ensuring that everyone feels valued and included. Join us as we continue to celebrate our collective spirit and enrich the lives of those around us!

Get ready for some exciting gatherings as we kick off the new year with a series of engaging events! We're thrilled to announce:

- A Taste of Sunshine: Join us on Saturday, January 25th, for a delightful culinary experience chaired by the talented Marlene Hall. Explore a variety of flavors that are sure to brighten your day!
- Brushes and Bubbles: Unleash your creativity on February 4th with this fun painting event chaired by Heidi Dill. Grab a brush, sip on some bubbly, and enjoy a night of artistic expression with friends!
- Pop-Up Pulled Pork Sandwich Night: Don't miss out on our delicious pulled pork sandwich and chips night on January 28th at 4:30 PM (Sunshine Time). Come hungry and ready to enjoy great food and company! Stay tuned for more details via email. We can't wait to see you there!

Casino Night is gearing up to be the most memorable event of the season, and it's all thanks to the incredible efforts of Vicky Kruger and her dedicated team! We are thrilled to announce that we have once again partnered with the same fantastic company to help us create an exciting experience for everyone. This event truly embodies the spirit of our community—it's an all-hands-on-deck effort! We warmly invite anyone interested in volunteering to join us in making this night a success. Your support and enthusiasm will contribute immensely to the fun and excitement of the evening. Stay tuned for more details, and get ready for an unforgettable night of games, laughter, and camaraderie!

Mark your calendars for our next Women's Club meeting on Friday, February 21st at 9 AM! We invite all members to come together for a morning filled with friendship, delicious refreshments, and meaningful conversation. During our meeting, we will discuss upcoming community events, explore potential donations to further enhance our neighborhood, and take the time to support one another as women. Your voice and ideas are vital to our growth and impact within the community. Let's unite, inspire, and empower each other! We look forward to seeing you there!



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As always, I encourage you to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have. Your feedback and involvement are what make our Women's Club thrive!

Sincerely,

*Pam Davis, Women's Club President*  
214-516-4844

### Women's Club: From the Activities Director

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. It's hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the end of the 2024-25 season so I thought now would be a good time to recap all we've accomplished this past year. I'd like to start off by giving a big shout out to all the committee chairs and their volunteers. We've had a busy but fun season with more to come. It all started with our first ever Health Fair. There were so many vendors and so many residents that took advantage of this great opportunity to check in with their health. I hope this is the beginning of a new tradition. Oktoberfest and the Halloween Party closed out October. As always, our salute to all the veterans on Veterans Day was a ceremony that touched many hearts. What can I say about that Country Carnival!? What a fun, crazy day! I know it was a lot of work but I hope we can make this another Sunshine tradition. We began the holiday season with the Craft and Bake sale and continued the festivities with Christmas Dinner and the New Years Eve Party. The new year started off with a bang with the New Homeowners party. It's always special spending time with all our neighbors but what's extra special is getting to meet our new residents and the opportunity to get to know them better. Thank you to the Women's Club board for making such a delicious breakfast and Taco Tuesday. Both were a big hit! By the time this newsletter is sent out we probably would have already had our annual Taste of Sunshine, which based on the past, is always a yummy time. Whew! But wait! There's more. Our Women's Club President has highlighted a few of our next upcoming events including Brush and Bubbles, Pop-Up Pulled Pork Sandwich Night, and our ever successful Casino Night. In addition, we also will be having a Shrimp Boil on Fat Tuesday, March 4th, a Tea Party on Sunday March 23rd, an End of Season (Farewell Party) on Friday April 4th and finally I'll be organizing a trash pickup day on Earth Day, Tuesday April 22nd. Stayed tuned for further information on all these upcoming events.

We will be having a Women's Club planning meeting towards the end of February, where we will be discussing what events we'd like to do next season. Please, if you have any thoughts or ideas to make next year even more fun filled than this year has been, come join us! I'll keep you posted on the day and time.

Finally, it's bittersweet of me to say this, but this will be my last year as the Activity Director of the Women's Club. I have had such a wonderful time making new friends and spending time with everybody to help make this beautiful community an even better place to live. I will cherish all the memories and look forward to working with a new Director to make new cherished memories. If you're a party planner at heart and enjoy working with people or know someone that is, please think about being the new Activity Director. This Women's Club board is a group of amazing women and believe me, there's never a dull moment! If you're interested, you can contact Pam Davis or Pam Lacy. Again, a big thank you to this community for making me feel so welcome from day one.

*Jill Ventrello*  
*Women's Club Activity Director*



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### Women's Club: Brush and Bubbles (Feb 4, 2025)

This event is available to both Women & Men. Signup ends on Saturday, Jan 25. All other details are below. Please contact me with correspondence and / or questions.

- Heidi Dill, Chairperson

## BRUSH & BUBBLES



When: Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Time: 1PM - 4PM

Where: Retzlaff Hall

Cost: \$10



### What Is Included:

- 6" x 6" prepared canvas (to keep)
  - Choice of 1 design
- Use of brushes, paints and essentials
- Step by step instructions by hostess Heidi Dill
  - Non spiked and spiked beverage

Sign up and pay in Library starting Thursday  
January 23 - January 25 (envelopes provided)



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### Women's Club: Casino Night (Feb 22, 2025)

Casino Night will be on February 22nd. It costs several thousand dollars to rent the equipment, pay for prizes etc. We would like to get a donation of \$10 from each household to help pay for the expenses.

If you would like to support this event, you can give your donation to one of these people:

- Minnesota - Deb Eich, Sally Hardy, Dee Novak
- Missouri - Linda Ramsdell, Joy Olson, Katie Grimm, Lois Bjornson, Jane Meehan
- Iowa - Lexa Bentley, Patricia Lay, Marlene Hall
- Wisconsin - Linda Quaife, Jill Heinerikson
- Montana - Jill Ventrello, Judy Stone
- Nebraska - Cathy Chajec
- Kansas - Kat Boyd
- Michigan - Brenda Bont, Marlene Parker, Janis McFee
- Indiana - Pam Davis, Judy Parker

Thank you in advance for your support.

More information will be available after the committee meeting this coming Tuesday.

If you have any questions contact:

- *Cindy Hulswit & Vicky Krueger (co-chairpersons)*

### Golf: Women's League - From the President

The ladies responsible for our upcoming Women's Golf League events; GNDGT Lunch & the Baked Potato Supper, have provided that info throughout this Newsletter. Thank you ladies.

**REMINDER: NEXT WOMEN'S GOLF MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:00 A.M.**

- *DANA SZRETTER, LEAGUE PRESIDENT, 719-660-4490*



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**Golf: Women's League - Baked Potato Supper (Feb 1, 2025)**

Ladies Golf  
**BAKED POTATO SUPPER**  
With all the fixins and dessert  
ice tea and coffee provided



February 1, 2025  
Social hour at 4:30 pm  
**Serving 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm**  
Take out available

Virtual ticket sales in the Library starting  
Wednesday Jan 22, 2025  
\$6.00 per person  
Deadline for tickets is January 29, 2025 at 3:00 pm.

Please put \$6.00 per person in an envelope with names on  
the outside, cash only.

See you there!!!

*LISA ELLICOTT, LORI McCURRY AND KERRY HOWARD*





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### **Golf: Guys & Dolls Tournament (Feb 7 & 8, 2025)**

Time is fast approaching for the Guys & Dolls Tournament, February 7 & 8 with our weather delay dates for February 14 & 15. So, it's time to start thinking about your partner for the event. It will be the same scramble format as in the past. We will have an awards banquet in the Hall on the evening of the last day of play. Everyone brings their favorite finger food to share and BYOB. It is always a lot of fun! Signup sheets will be posted in the library on January 28th. The cost is \$10.00 a person, and all the money goes back into the prize fund. For any questions or information call or text:

- Deloris Pearcy (417) 830-1816 or Nancy Lyne (308) 870-4286



### **Club: Table Tennis (Ping Pong)**

Just a reminder that there is table tennis in Retzlaff Hall on Fridays from 1 to 3 pm. Come and get some exercise and have some fun. See additional info here: <https://www.sunshinecountryclub.com/table-tennis>.

- Jan Kawecki



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### Club: Garden

- Debbie Gossman, Garden Club

## MR. ALVARO GURROLA SOUTH TEXAS MUSHROOMS



### **Garden Club Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 11**

**6:30 pm Retzlaff Hall**

### **Sign-up sheet located in Library.**

Join us to learn the benefits of medicinal mushrooms

South Texas Mushrooms was founded by three people, Alvaro Gurrola Jr, Estevan Gonzales, and Leo Martinez in 2019. As a school teacher, Al shares his knowledge with other classrooms and community events educating the benefits of medicinal mushrooms.

Here is a quick back story of his journey - the why and the how this business and presentation was created. When Al's father was diagnosed with a fatal autoimmune disorder, the team came together to combine their skills and find an alternative healing method other than chemotherapy for Mr. Gurrola, Sr. Today, scientists are actively discovering beneficial properties of medicinal mushrooms, leading to innovative health and wellness solutions.

There are so many nutrients in mushrooms that support a happy and healthy life. However, eating wild mushrooms can be dangerous, causing a number of side effects. You might wonder which mushrooms offer the greatest benefits. South Texas Mushrooms provides Organic Lifestyle Living solutions through mushrooms and mushroom based products by growing the freshest organic mushrooms of the best varieties available in South Texas and selling them direct to the consumer from the farm.

Join us at our February 11 meeting to learn the healthiest mushrooms and the optimal methods for their use.

Please use the **Sign-up sheet** in the library. If desired, check mark any products that might be of interest. There is no obligation to purchase (just informational to Mr. Gurrola).



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**Concert: The Brett Dana Show (Feb, 16, 2025)**

# The Brett Dana Show



**Laugh, Smile, Relax**



**Music Comedy Parodies ,**

**Singer, Song Writer Out of Nashville**

**Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup>, Retzlaff Hall**

**2PM, doors open at 1:30**

- Dana Boettcher



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### St. Patrick's Day Party (Mar 17, 2025)



### St. Patrick's Day Party

Get Out Your Greens

St. Patrick's Day Party

Monday, Mar 17

Time, 4 PM @ Retzlaff Hall

Hosted by the McFees

and Friends

Drinks and Pizza supplied by generous donations.

All attending are asked to bring finger foods.

Donations toward costs can be dropped off to

Derek (DAK) at 2028 W Michigan

Everyone Welcome. No Cost.

- Derek (DAK) McFee



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### SEPO Library

SEPO Library: Author Recommendations  
By Reva Allen

Those of you who use the SEPO library probably have noticed that we have quite a few series of books written by various authors. This article provides information about some of those authors who may not be as familiar to you as Clark, Baldacci, Patterson, Roberts, Steel, and Sparks. I hope you enjoy trying out some of them.

- **Isabel Allende:** highly-regarded Chilean-American novelist. We have 6 of her works.
- **Emily Brightwell:** author of the Mrs. Jeffries cozy mysteries set in Victorian England. We have 25 of the 41 books in the series.
- **Ann Cleeves:** has written 5 murder mystery series. The current BBC TV series *Vera* is based on one of these. We have 11 of her books.
- **Jennifer Chiaverini:** author of the Elm Creek Quilts series, novels about a group of quilters and some Civil War- and Depression-era ancestors of the main character. We have most of the books in the series.
- **Lynn Kurland:** author of two intertwining series of time-travel romances. We have about 20 of her books, including some stories included in 3-4 of our romance anthology books.
- **Sophie Hannah:** author of the Zailer & Waterhouse Mystery series of psychological thrillers, which follow the work of two British police inspectors who have their own psychological quirks. She also is the author of a new series of Hercule Poirot mysteries, which have been authorized by the estate of Agatha Christie.
- **J. A. Jance:** author of 4 series of murder mysteries. We have most of her books.
- **Iris Johansen:** author of 3 mystery series. We have almost all of her books.
- **Catherine Coulter:** author of 2 mystery series having FBI agents as lead characters. We have 26 of her 33 books.
- **Hope Ramsay:** we have 7 of her Last Chance romance novels.
- **Emily March:** we have 9 of her Eternity Springs romance novels.

Our books are shelved alphabetically by author and then title. If you want to read books in series in chronological order, I suggest you Google a web site such as [www.bookseriesinorder.com](http://www.bookseriesinorder.com) to obtain a list of the author's works in order.



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### Neighborhood Watch & CERT



SUNSHINE CC ESTATES  
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH  
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



Since there cannot be a Law Enforcement Office on every corner, citizen involvement is essential to prevent crime. And we are the ones who know what is going on at Sunshine. By cooperating with each other, Sunshine residents can help fight crime in a very effective way – before it begins!

Neighborhood Watch is undoubtedly one of the oldest and well-known crime prevention programs. This concept began in the late 1960's in response to increasing burglary rates. The roots of NW can actually be traced all the way back to Colonial Days when night watchmen patrolled the settlements and streets.

The modern-day version of NW was developed because of requests from Sheriffs and Police Departments around the country who were looking for a crime prevention program. The intent would incorporate citizen involvement and address the increasing number of burglaries taking place especially in suburban areas. In 1972, the National Sheriffs Association took the concept a step further by seeking funding to make the program a national initiative.

The first two years of the program focused primarily on disseminating info on the nature and volume of burglary and securing residential property to make it less vulnerable to break-ins. From there it evolved into a program that promoted the establishment of ongoing local NW groups. This effort encouraged citizens to partner with their local Law Enforcement Agencies in an effort to reduce various types of "neighborhood crime".

Since its inception, NW has grown from an "extra pair of eyes and ears" approach to a much more proactive program. Our community-oriented endeavor provides a unique infrastructure that brings together our LE (both Combes and Harlingen) and citizens for the protection of their community. In fact, come August – Harlingen will have a National Night Out program at Lon C Hill Park across from Harlingen PD and in October, Combes celebrates their NNO in the park across from the Combes Police Department.

So, we are very lucky. Some responsibilities of NW members might be to learn neighbor's names, be able to recognize their vehicles and be alert to unusual or



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suspicious behavior. Be alert to unusual or suspicious behavior. Call the PD – do not take any risks to prevent crime or try to make an arrest. REPORT the crime - include the activity (car stolen, break-in from back door, etc). Watch your neighbor's home when they are going home ("up North"). Ask them to return the favor..... Don't leave a signal that says "no one is home". Pick up the newspapers. Be involved – it is the most effective way to reduce/prevent crime and make Sunshine safe.

If a crime occurs – report it..... Harlingen Police Department 956 216 5940

Some good "report" notes to take..... What occurred, When, Where, What.....

Where are the Bad Guys heading? Etc. (take a minute, compose your thoughts)

Any guns etc.????? Vehicle - make model color etc. is good info. License Plate.

No fact it too trivial – How many suspects were there? What did they do? What did they say? What did they take? Which way did they go? Any other witnesses?? Who, names, addresses & phone numbers?

**NW Patrol Schedule:** Mary Grande makes the schedule for NW Patrol which is done every night. When and if you choose to join the Neighborhood Watch, you will be fully oriented. Mary Grande and I (and a few other neighbors) have taken the Harlingen Citizens Police Academy course. We attend their monthly meetings at the Harlingen PD. Chief Quill in Combes also is very aware of our community and our NW efforts.

**Block Captains and Co-Captains:** These special volunteers make the NW tick. All nine streets ideally should have a volunteer Block Captain as a point of contact. The Co-Captains would be those volunteers who are next door to four or six homes – just keeping an eye out. This is simply for communication. This key person is an integral component in keeping the block – the street actively informed - from crime prevention efforts to exchange of information. The NW can flourish or dwindle. These suggestions are not all inclusive. Developing a comms system assists in distributing vital info to your neighbors. Facilitate the unity. Get new residents involved. Obtain their support. *Rekindle older connections of residents who have gotten away from the mission.* Remind your street of an upcoming meeting. Block captains and Co-Captains are the glue.



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### FROM THE EDITOR

### HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

WOW – Thanks to everyone who provided such great information for this Newsletter. I hope I have included all articles since I received so many. If I missed anything, I do apologize, and please send it to me again so I can update the Newsletter. As additional details are finalized for your events, send them to [sepoenews@sunshinecountryclub.com](mailto:sepoenews@sunshinecountryclub.com), to be sent to the community in a SEPO email.

Have fun at all of the great activities coming up.

**Beth Parrish**  
**SEPO Newsletter Editor**  
**Email: ([seponewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:seponewsletter@gmail.com))**  
**314-960-6710**