

**LEXINGTON PARK
COMMUNITY
(HOA PECAN PARK)**



**FEBRUARY
2026
VOL 3 ISSUE 2**

THE EQUESTIAN DISPATCH

INAUGURAL ISSUE PUBLISHED JANUARY 2024

PECAN PARK URL: <https://pecanparkhoa.net/> LINK



EXAMPLE ABOVE OF AN 18TH CENTURY NEWSPAPER/BROADSHEET



***EACH MONTH WE WILL EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF OUR
COUNTRIES FOUNDING 250 YEARS AGO BETWEEN 1776-
1783 & HOW THESE EVENTS WERE SHARED WITH LOCAL
CITIZENS VIA NEWSPAPER, PAMPHLETS & BROADSIDES &
CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH***

Newsletter prepared/edited "Gratis" by Mark Toney/approved by our HOA board.

FEBRUARY 2026 REMINDER

**Our annual HOA Assessment is due on 31 JAN 2026
& considered Late on 11 February 2026.**

01 FEB National Freedom Day/Black History Month
04 FEB Thank our US Postal Mail Person (Ms. Tomisina)
14 FEB Valentine's Day
16 FEB George Washington's B day/President's Day
16 MAR Black Press Day

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- ♦ **All residents** are encouraged to attend HOA Board & Committee meetings.
 - ♦ **ARC Committee** meets every 3rd Thursday at 06:00 pm at the Barn.
 - ♦ **Compliance Enforcement committee**, standby for updates.
 - ♦ **Event Committee** meets monthly the last Tuesday at 6:30 pm at the Barn.
 - ♦ **Food Truck**: February 6th & 20th (5-8 pm) at the Barn.

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- ♦ **PLAYGROUND**: Was damaged by **Vandals** who damaged the new Sod. The **PLAYGROUND sprinkler well pump is broken and being repaired**. We have not been able to water the repaired sod due to recent freezing temperatures and the lack of rainfall. The Playground will be closed for a little while longer. Please be patient.

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- ♦ **THE NEXT HOA MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HIGHLANDS REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY ON DUNN AVE ON MARCH 19, 2026 AT 6 PM. DETAILS TO JOIN IN VIA ZOOM WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE HOA AGENDA 48 HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING.**

MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR HOME/PROPERTY
WITHOUT HOA ARC COMMITTEE/HOA BOARD APPROVAL
CAN/WILL RESULT IN A VIOLATION LETTER BEING SENT
TO THE HOMEOWNER WITH THE POTENTIAL OF A FINE.

ENTERTAINMENT

COJ JAX EXPLORE [LINK](#) EVENT BRITE [LINK](#)
VISIT JAX [LINK](#) JAX KIDS OUT & ABOUT [LINK](#)

ARC COMMITTEE

15 JANUARY 2026



HOMEOWNER's GUIDE TO SUBMIT AN ARCHITECTURAL CHANGE REQUEST

- ♦ The ARC Committee has prepared/submitted a detailed 13 page guide for the HOA board to review to help homeowners submit an ARC REQUEST to improve your home. Please prepare and then submit your ARC REQUEST on your computer vice your telephone, as your PC allows you to see all of the TownSQ's features clearly.
 - ♦ Once approved, it will be posted on TownSQ, ([LINK](#)), and on the HOA Pecan Park webpage (via the HOA Rules) top menu, ([LINK](#))
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- ♦ A new **Chik-Fil-a** is being built on the Northside on Duval Station Road close to Publix opposite the First Coast High School. Please slow down at the School Crossings.





PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISER “THAT’S MY BRICK”

- ♦ **We have NINE (10) homeowners who have purchased a total of 12 bricks to date.** This fundraiser is intended to fund the rebuilding of our playground and avoid the need for a special assessment. **Your Brick will be placed adjacent to the new playground to recognize those who supported this project.** Purchase a **Replica brick (\$50)** as a keepsake. **Read the Brochure [LINK](#).**
- ♦ **How to order:** Donations for Partner 4”x8” rectangular bricks are \$200 and the Community Builder 8”x8” square bricks are \$275 to raise funds for this project. If you have questions, ask Mark at AS-GF6834@GMAIL.COM.

You Payment is strictly between you and the “That’s My Brick vendor” with payment options of (Visa, MC, Amex, Discovery). Keep your email receipt.

*Read the Brochure then go to this ([LINK](#)) and select **LOGO/TEXT** to Order & Personalize your brick , don’t forget to order a Replica keepsake brick for your home.*

Lexington Park Community Recycling Fundraiser...Aluminum, Steel, Copper, Metal, all recyclable materials. Most beverage cans can be turned in for cash! All proceeds will help pay for our Playground! Please contact Christina Bennett for more info at ...

Christina.Bennett@pecanparkhoa.net



BLACK HISTORY MONTH; 01 FEB 2026

This is our 250th year of American Democracy. Let's celebrate our African American Newspaper publishers, Printers, Authors & Poets.

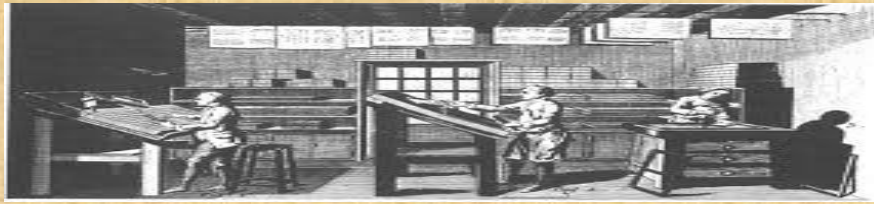
- ⇒ **Phyllis Wheatley**: Was an American writer who is considered the first African American author of a published book of poetry, "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral" published September 1773, shortly after Parliament passed the TEA ACT.
- ⇒ **Benjamin Banneker**: A free Black mathematician and astronomer who authored & helped to publish his own circulated Almanacs, 1791. [LINK](#)
- ⇒ **Jupiter Hammon**: The first African American to have his work published in the United States. He published his first poem, "An Evening Thought," in 1760 and later published various essays.
- ⇒ **George Washington Carver**: [LINK](#) George Washington Carver was an American agricultural scientist/inventor who promoted alternative crops to cotton & methods to prevent soil depletion. He was one of the most prominent Black scientists of the early 20th century. One of the products that came out of Washington Carver's agricultural innovations was **printer ink**.
- ⇒ **The North Star** newspaper was established by [Frederick Douglass](#) in 1847, this paper became a prominent voice in the anti-slavery movement. [LINK](#)
- ⇒ **L'UNION** newspaper was Founded in 1862, it was the first Black-owned newspaper in the South. [LINK](#)
- ⇒ **NEW ORLEANS TRIBUNE** was launched by Dr. Louis Charles Roudanez in 1864, it was the first Black daily newspaper in the U.S. [LINK](#)
- ⇒ **List of African American newspapers and media outlets**: [WIKI LINK](#)



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONTINUED...

- ⇒ **Freedom's Journal**: founded in **1827** as a four-page weekly newspaper. Please read this [LINK](#) to appreciate its history.
- ⇒ **Honoring African American contributions to Newspapers**; Library of Congress, [LINK](#)
- ⇒ **TIMELINE Milestones of the Black Press in the U.S**: [LINK](#)

The Black press has powered political action and lifted spirits as it chronicled achievements, aspirations, and challenges. Such was its power that some Southern towns banned the sale of Black papers in an effort to stem the Great Migration. Coverage of the civil rights movement provided crucial information and inspiration. The 4 million images from Jet and Ebony magazines — among them Jackie Robinson, Martin Luther King Jr., and Diana Ross — donated to the Smithsonian are also a testament to the place of the Black press in American life.
- ⇒ **BLACK PRESS DAY (March 16th 1827)**. Black Press Day is an annual observance on March 16 that honors the founding of the first Black-owned and operated newspaper in the United States, Freedom's Journal, published in **1827**. It celebrates nearly two centuries of African American journalism and its role in giving voice, dignity, and representation to Black communities. A legacy of advocacy, as the Black press challenged racism, demanded civil rights, and documented Black life when mainstream media ignored or distorted it. A tradition of empowerment, uplifting communities through reporting on jobs, education, politics, culture, and social justice. The Black press helped shape major civil rights milestones, from voting rights to desegregation. It provided a platform for Black Americans to “plead our own cause,” countering stereotypes and asserting agency. Today, it continues to amplify perspectives often overlooked in mainstream media. Black Press Day was formally established **1990** by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).
- ⇒ **How People Celebrate**: Reading historic Black newspapers such as **The Chicago Defender** or **The Philadelphia Tribune**. Supporting modern Black-owned publications through subscriptions. **Soldiers Without Swords** (PBS documentary) [LINK](#), celebrates the history of America's Black Newspapers. It retrieves an important missing page from American history and brings it virtually to life.



AMERICAN COLONIAL PRINTERS / NEWSPAPERS / BROADSHEETS/PAMPHLETS

LINK Colonial print culture: Early America printers.

- ♦ Most folks today get our News, either by traditional newspaper (print/online), TV, radio, Social media, social channels, or streaming online video.
- ♦ We'll go back in time to explore the History of Printing for 16th century America as well as African American writers, poets, and publishers this February month celebrating Black History.
- ♦ The "History of Printing in America" was published in 1810, whose author reflected on his lengthy Printing Career before, during and after the American Revolution. Our culture is fast paced and many of us are accustomed to reading no more than a few texts or paragraphs at a time vice reading a Newspaper or Book. Printing was a family business over generations, passed down from father to son or husband to wife. Revenue for Printers came primarily from Subscribers (newspapers/broadsheets) which was their daily bread and butter to make a living. But sometimes Subscribers did not pay up. Other work came from publishing Pamphlets and Books ("Common Sense" by Thomas Paine), Almanacs, Essays, Poetry, Sermons and etc.
- ♦ Eighteen century Printers were hungry for News & Gossip either local, out of state or across the Atlantic ocean. A printing business needed to form relationships either, political, legal, commerce or government. Sources were other Printers, Merchants, Politician's, & Ship Captains from overseas from the Caribbean, Europe & England. Most Printers published a (4) four-page Weekly newspaper/broadsheet. How did they do this with infrequent news source from week to week? Traveling to a local village, town, or city could take days or longer by horseback. (More News next month in March)

THE EQUESTRIAN DISPATCH



EVENTS IN FEBRUARY (1776 -1783) AMERICA REVOLUTION

End of the Seven Years War: FEBRUARY 10, 1763

The Treaty of Paris ends the Seven Years War (French and Indian War). France surrenders all of its North American possessions east of the Mississippi to Britain. This ends a source of insecurity for the British colonists along the Atlantic Coast. The costs of the war and maintaining an army will lead the British government to impose new taxes on its colonists, with world-shaking results.

PRELUDE TO WAR IN NORTH AMERICA

FORT NECESSITY NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

Rival claims between the French and the English to the vast territory along the Ohio River between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi approached a climax about 1750. The Ohio Company (organized in 1748 by a group of prominent Englishmen and Virginians who saw the economic and financial potential of the area) had obtained a large grant of 200,000 acres in the upper Ohio River Valley. From its post at Wills Creek, now Cumberland, Maryland, the Company planned additional settlements and started to open an 80-mile wagon road to the Monongahela River. Meanwhile, the French, who considered the Ohio a vital link between New France (Canada) and Louisiana, advanced southward and westward, from Fort Niagara on Lake Ontario, driving out English traders and claiming the Ohio River Valley for France. In 1753, Governor Robert Dinwiddie of Virginia learned the French had built Fort Presque Isle near Lake Erie and Fort Le Boeuf in that part of the Ohio country claimed by Virginia. He sent an eight-man expedition under George Washington to warn the French to withdraw.

WASHINGTON, THE EMISSARY

Washington made the journey as a British emissary in midwinter of **1753-54**. He was 21 years old. French officers politely told Washington they were not obliged to obey his summons, and they were going to stay. Washington returned to Virginia and informed Governor Robert Dinwiddie that the French refused to leave.

THE FORT NECESSITY CAMPAIGN

Even before he learned of the French refusal to abandon the Ohio Valley, Governor Dinwiddie sent a small force of Virginia soldiers to build a fort at the forks of the Ohio, where Pittsburgh now stands. In April **1754** the stockade was barely finished when a French force drove off the Virginians and built a larger fort on the site. The French called it Fort Duquesne in honor of the Marquis de Duquesne, the new governor of New France.

MOORE'S CREEK: LOYALISTS DEFEATED

FEBRUARY 27, 1776

A force of loyalists (Americans who want to remain British subjects), most of them of Scots descent, is defeated by a patriot army at the Battle of Moore's' Creek Bridge. This setback will largely quiet loyalist activity in the Carolinas for three years.

FRANCE ENTERS THE WAR AGAINST BRITAIN

FEBRUARY 1778

As a result of the patriot victory at Saratoga and American diplomatic efforts, France allies itself with the new American government. French financial and military aid will prove critical in winning the war. The Continental Army will learn of the French Alliance in May. That same month George Washington, newly commissioned as a lieutenant colonel, started westward from Alexandria with part of a newly recruited regiment of Virginians.

They were to build a road to the Monongahela River at Redstone Creek, present day Brownsville, Pennsylvania. He was then to help defend the English fort on the Ohio. When Washington reached Wills Creek, he learned the forks of the Ohio was in French hands. He resolved to push on to Redstone Creek and await further instructions. By the end of May, Washington's force was well beyond Wills Creek when the commander of the expedition, Col. Joshua Fry, arrived there with the rest of the Virginia Regiment.

BATTLE OF COWPENS: AMERICAN TIDE CONTINUES

JANUARY 17, 1781

Continental soldiers and patriot militia under General Daniel Morgan defeat a British force under Banastre Tarleton at Cowpens. Coming on the heels of the victory at Kings Mountain, Cowpens helps convince worried patriots that the British southern strategy can be countered.

LOYALISTS LEAVE AMERICA

JANUARY 1782

The evacuation of loyalists begins. Largely unwelcome in the new United States, about **100,000** Americans who remained loyal to the crown find new lives in Britain, Canada, and British colonies in the West Indies. Among them are about **15,000** African Americans, some of whom end up helping to found the country of Sierra Leone in Africa. The loyalist experience will have a profound effect on the development of Canada's national identity.

U.S. Constitution Replaces Articles of Confederation 1787

A convention of states in Philadelphia proposes the Constitution to replace the much looser central government operating under the Articles of Confederation (adopted in **1777**). With amendments, the Constitution remains the framework of government in the U.S.

(OUR STORY CONTINUES NEXT MONTH FOR (MARCH))

LAWN WINTER CARE [LINK](#)

Key Guidelines for Winter Lawn Watering **Dormancy vs. Drought**

Grass that feels crunchy is usually dormant or frozen. Dormant grass needs very little water, but roots still benefit from occasional moisture.

- When to Water; Only water if there is no measurable precipitation for 3–4 weeks; Provide about ½ inch of water every two weeks during drought conditions; Avoid watering if the ground is frozen, snow-covered, or temperatures below 40°F; Best Time of Day, Midday is safest, since it allows grass to dry before nightfall and prevents ice formation.

Risks of Overwatering

- Root Rot & Fungus: Excess moisture in cold soil can promote disease; Compacted Soil: Saturated soil freezes harder, stressing roots; Wasted Effort: Dormant grass will not absorb much water, so overwatering does more harm than good.

Benefits of Occasional Winter Watering

- Moist Soil Retains Heat: Hydrated soil insulates roots, reducing cold damage; Faster Spring Recovery: Grass that does not dry out completely rebounds more quickly when temperatures rise.

Bottom line: If your lawn is crunchy simply because it is frozen or dormant, don't water. If Jacksonville experiences a dry winter with little rainfall, give your lawn a midday light watering every couple of weeks to keep the roots hydrated. Would you like me to outline a tailored winter watering schedule for Jacksonville's climate, so you know exactly when to supplement rainfall?



Quick Comparison

Situation	Watering Needed?	Notes
Frozen or snow-covered lawn	✗ No	Water won't penetrate; risk of ice
Dormant but moist soil	✗ No	Natural dormancy, rainfall usually sufficient
Dry winter, no rain for weeks	✓ Yes	Light watering (½ inch every 2 weeks)
Temperatures below 40°F	✗ No	Risk of freezing damage