

THUNDER ROAD, VOL 45

The Central Florida Thunderbird Club

www.cfctc.net

On Sept 18th, members of the Club drove their 'birds to the National Parts Depot in Ocala. Jim Schmidt started his classic car restoration parts business out of his basement in 1976. Today he and his son, Ron, run the nationwide company, while maintaining their famous private collection of classic American cars. Ron guided tour group and had a story and the history of every vehicle anyone asked about. It is a beautiful collection. Afterwards the group went to Mojo's for lunch.



Mike O'Leary, Larry Bowcock, Ralph Cowell, Larry Dambrose, Larry Sheridan, newcomers Bill and Virginia Panto, Nancy and Ray Felmlee.







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Welcome to new members:

Ron & Connie Lowman, owners of an '04 mint Green Thunderbird
and to Bill & Virginia Panto, owners of a '56 Red TBird.

Below is a letter from Tiffany Schapira with the **details about the Nov. 20th Thunderbird Car Show** at Lake Sumter Landing. This Show is a big deal, featuring only Thunderbirds – all years. If you haven't already, let Ralph (rotaryralph@hotmail.com) know that you are interested in participating.

Hi Ralph,

It was nice chatting with you today about the Thunderbird Car Show at Lake Sumter Landing on November 20, 2026.

I've attached an aerial view of the square so you can see the planned flow of vehicle placement for the event. We will begin parking vehicles at the **first space after the handicap parking area across from Red Sauce** and continue around the square, ending at the **last space across from the radio station**. In total, we will be utilizing the 53 parking spaces located around the inside of the square.

For staging, participants should plan to arrive between 2:45 PM and 3:45 PM in the parking lot behind City Furniture (formerly Sonny's BBQ). As discussed, our team will provide and set up:

- (1) 10x10 Tent
- (1) 6-foot Table
- 2 Chairs
- Tent Weights

The setup will be located **in front of the fountain across from the radio station**. I will send a detailed event information email closer to the show date, along with an invoice via Square to your email for the **\$75 rental fee** for the tent, table, chairs, and weights.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the event. I'm always happy to help!

Best regards,

Tiffany Schapira, Hospitality Coordinator

Tiffany.Schapira@TheVillages.com | www.TheVillagesEntertainment.com

******Here is something in which a lot of you will be interested. Since the end of the Spanish Springs Car Shows this is a show that can replace it. The location of New Covenant Church is 3470 Woodridge Dr, The Villages, FL**

Ralph,

This is an invitation to The Central Florida Thunderbird Club.

I wanted to share something new we are launching for car enthusiasts throughout The Villages.

Beginning **Saturday, October 10**, New Covenant United Methodist Church will host a **Monthly Car Show on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 AM–1:00 PM.**

The idea is simple: **all makes, all models, all years—and everyone is welcome.** This is not a new car club. It is an opportunity for members of all of our local clubs, independent car enthusiasts, friends and neighbors to come together, enjoy great cars and meet great people.

There is **no entry fee and no registration—just show up and enjoy.** A voluntary \$5 donation is encouraged to support New Covenant's youth ministry and community outreach.

Please take a look at the attached flyer and, most importantly, help us spread the word. Share it with your club, fellow car enthusiasts, neighbors and anyone who enjoys automobiles.

We would love to see this become one of those special monthly gatherings that brings the entire Villages car community together.

Come for the cars. Stay for the people.

Greg Sullins

615-961-7947

greg@sullinsgroup.com

CAR ENTHUSIASTS OF THE VILLAGES®
People • Cars • Community

Different Cars... Same Passion! *All Are Welcome!*

MONTHLY CAR SHOW

A MONTHLY GATHERING FOR EVERYONE WHO LOVES CARS

2nd Saturday of Each Month • 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

ALL MAKES • ALL MODELS • ALL YEARS WELCOME

Classic • Muscle • Corvette • Mustang • Exotic • Sports • Hot Rod • Custom • Truck • Modern & More

*Great Cars
Great People
Great Mornings!*

New Covenant United Methodist Church

NO ENTRY FEE

NO REGISTRATION JUST SHOW UP!

NO CLUB MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

ALL CAR CLUBS ARE INVITED!

2026 – 2027 SHOW DATES

October 10, 2026
November 14, 2026
December 12, 2026
January 9, 2027
February 13, 2027
March 13, 2027

HOSTED BY

New Covenant United Methodist Church
3470 Woodridge Drive
The Villages, Florida 32162

A GREAT LOCATION

• Room for 500+ vehicles
• Convenient central location
• Beautiful shade trees throughout the parking areas

\$5 VOLUNTARY DONATION ENCOURAGED

100% of donations benefit New Covenant United Methodist Church youth ministry and community outreach programs.

Bring Your Car... OR SIMPLY COME AND ENJOY!

A fun, relaxed environment to meet and interact with fellow car enthusiasts throughout The Villages and surrounding communities.

It's More Than Cars... It's Community

QUESTIONS OR WANT TO HELP?

Greg Sullins
615-961-7947
 greg@sullinsgroup.com

A lifelong car enthusiast and Village of Summerhill resident.
Eager to help make this a great monthly gathering!

All Roads Lead to Good People

COME FOR THE CARS. STAY FOR THE PEOPLE.

**This is the update for Club Events now thru December 2026 -
Make your RSVPs and mark your Calendars now!**

1) **RSVP Monday, Oct 5th, 11am Meeting & Lunch at Gio's** Deli Back Room. There is seating for 30 in the back room for lunch. If we have more than 30 when you RSVP, lunch can be eaten in the main dining room then we will get some extra chairs and you can join us in the back room for the meeting.

2) **RSVP Saturday Oct 24th, 8am-11am - Polo Field in The Villages. Display of Thunder Birds** for Alzheimer's Fund Raiser with Rotary Club of The Villages- Donation is requested. Members pledge levels: gold- \$100 Silver \$ 50 – Bronze \$20 Most car clubs support a charity

3) **RSVP Monday, Nov. 2nd, 11am, Lunch & meeting at Gio's** Deli. There is seating for 30 in the back room for lunch. If we have more than 30 when you RSVP, lunch can be eaten in the main dining room then we will get some extra chairs and you can join us in the back room for the meeting.

4) **RSVP For the REALLY BIG T-Bird Show Lake Sumter Landing, Friday Nov. 20th, 5-8PM.** Staging at 4 PM

WE HAVE 53 SPACES FOR THE CAR SHOW. CARS OF ALL YEARS ARE ELIGIBLE. THIS WILL BE THE BIGGEST SHOW OF THE YEAR IN THE VILLAGES. IT WOULD BE GREAT TO FILL ALL THOSE SPACES. RSVP: RALPH – ROTARYRALPH@HOTMAIL.COM

We'll have a pop up tent, table to promote our Club- need a club sign
Ralph will put out a separate list soon with all confirmed participants and for the RSVP's that he still needs. Still room for 4-5 more TBirds.

5) **RSVP Thursday Dec 10th, Mt Dora annual Sunset Cruise and Christmas lights.** Dinner is on your own. (Suggestions: Lakeside Inn – Pisces Rising - 1941 Restaurant) Reservations suggested. All can be found online if you Google Mt. Dora.

6) **RSVP Christmas Party Sunday, Dec. 13, 6pm** @ Carole & Don Ferguson's home. This is Pot Luck so bring a dish to share and a gift for the Gift Exchange (men bring gift for a man, ladies bring gift for a woman).
32519 SE 84th Foxgrove Ave, The Villages.
(off Buena Vista Blvd, near Nancy Lopez Golf Course)

RSVP to Carole, missphit243@aol.com AND to Ralph