

Allison Betts



A familiar face to most folks in our Community, Allison Betts is just finishing up her fourth month as Activities Director and Association Assistant for the Stoneybrook Recreation Center and so far has been very active in getting to know the residents and being involved in our Community. Her friendly smile when you enter the Recreation Center or attend the Community potlucks makes you feel welcome and a part of our Community. That is exactly what Allison hopes to accomplish, a feeling of welcome and pride in our Community. She sees the major problem in our Community as people not having that important sense of Community and a pride in where we live and play together.

A Florida native, Allison grew up in Bartow and graduated from Bartow High School. She went to college at what was then Manatee Community College, and after graduation, permanently settled in our area, twenty three years ago. She now resides in Palmetto, which is a quick commute to work each day, and close enough to run home to check on her family.

Her position involves everything from making sure the coffee pot is plugged in to scheduling weekend staff. Allison is instrumental in building our Community calendar, so if you have an event, please contact her so she can add it to the schedule. She is also responsible for setting up for activities in the center and coordinating special events. Allison has taken over the monthly newsletter which she is willing to email directly to your home if you add your name to the list. She wants to be involved in your activities!

Stoneybrook residents are fortunate to have an Activities Director with the extensive background that Allison possesses. While in high school and college Allison volunteered for thirteen years with children who had special needs. After college she began as a counselor, moving up to Recreation Supervisor in charge of youth camps for Manatee County Government for over eighteen years. Her position as Rec Supervisor encompassed after school, summer, holiday and spring break programs. She organized Easter Egg Hunts which were attended by three to five thousand people and also the Night Before Christmas Event. It is no surprise that Allison is anxious to get more Community involvement in Stoneybrook and to organize events which will encourage that involvement.

Allison is a single mom to her son, Zackery, an active four year old. She also is a primary caregiver for six year old Ansley, the daughter of a close friend. At this stage in her life, Allison says her life revolves around Zackery and Ansley. If she is not at work she is busy entertaining and taking care of both of them. Right now Zackery loves musical instruments, so that consumes a lot of their time together. He is also starting to show an interest in baseball, so she sees many hours of playing catch and batting practice in her future. They enjoy riding bikes together and since Zackery got a Wii for Christmas, they now enjoy work outs and games on the Wii.

Allison stated that the best part about working at Stoneybrook is the interaction with residents. She is enjoying getting to know them and is surprising herself at how well she is doing with remembering names. Right now she is focusing on getting to know their needs and the needs of the Community.

One of the biggest challenges that Allison faces is getting the word out about events. Some of the residents don't read the newsletter or go on the Heritage Harbour Website. She is attempting to reach out to the twenty to thirty years old and the teens and t'weens to help them feel that they are part of our Community. She has been asking them for ideas for teen events and separate events for young adults and is putting together an email list to communicate with those age groups. She would like families with toddlers, school age children, middle schoolers, and high schoolers to contact her so that she can create data bases for future events. She can be contacted at the Recreation Center, or at stoneybrookrecenter@gmail.com. Allison is involved with organizing Community Day on January 22 from noon to three and would like to see a huge turnout! Come out and meet your neighbors and have fun with those you already know!

Other possible plans for the future are scrapbooking and line dancing but she needs everyone's input into what they would like to see in the community. Zumba has been started at the Rec Center and is quickly growing. Welcome Bags for new residents will soon be distributed out of her office. Allison feels she is in a perfect position to help make them feel welcome and to help orient them to the area. If you have any ideas for new programs, please contact Allison at 941-750-9688 to discuss them. She is anxious to hear your suggestions!