

## Snowbirds Back to Nest in Destin

The migration is underway, and the Destin snowbirds are arriving ready for warmer winter months on the Emerald Coast. According to returning snowbirds, there is no place like Destin, and they always feel welcomed, especially by the many local businesses who support the Destin Snowbird Club through door prize donations. Last year the Club's membership swelled to 1,200 as membership numbers recovered from COVID-19, and this year the Club anticipates a substantial boost in membership.



The Destin Snowbird Club's season begins on Monday, December 4 at 12:45 pm. when they open "The Roost" at their Annual Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at the Destin Community Center on Stahlman Avenue. The Club anticipates that this tradition, welcoming the new and returning snowbirds, will be attended by Mayor Bobby Wagner, who will welcome the snowbirds along with members from the Destin City Council, the Destin Chamber of Commerce, and Destin Snowbird

President Ken Campbell. Registration for new and returning snowbirds will follow the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony from 1 until 3 pm. Registration is \$12 per person. Membership provides access to all the meetings and opportunities to attend activities, dances, and trips.

The first official meeting of the snowbirds will be Tuesday, December 5, at 10 am. at the Destin Community Center. Sputzy, a well-known and talented local musician will open the meeting and his music is sure to be a hit with the snowbirds.

The prize committee has already gathered gifts from Destin businesses to be distributed as door prizes. Businesses find this a convenient and economical way to market their business. Businesses participating in the door prize program have their names announced at each meeting and have space to advertise on the Destin Snowbird website. Businesses can attend snowbirds meetings to promote their business and products. Any business interested in participating in this program can contact the prize committee chairpersons at [www.Destinbprizes@gmail.com](mailto:www.Destinbprizes@gmail.com) for more information.

Because the membership is expected to increase, the Club will return to having two meetings each Tuesday morning beginning January 9. The first meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 am. and the second meeting at 11 am.

The event, known as the BIG REGISTRATION, will be held on January 2 at the Destin Community Center from 1 - 3 pm. Snowbirds can register and sign up for events and activities for the season. Registration after January 2 will be held from 10 until noon on Mondays through

February 12. A special registration will be held prior to the General Membership meeting on January 16 as the Community Center is closed on Monday to celebrate the Martin Luther King holiday. Online registration is also available at [www.thedestinsnowbirds.com](http://www.thedestinsnowbirds.com).

A variety of activities offered include golf, tennis, basketball, bowling, softball, and pickleball. Cards/games will include poker, euchre, pinochle, and bridge. Mah-Jongg, craft and quilting will also be available. The Friendship Club for singles will meet for lunch every week. Several trips are already planned and the very popular TGIT (Thank Goodness It's Tuesday) parties will be back at Lulu's. Snowbirds will not find a bigger "bang for their buck" anywhere and that doesn't include the amazing friendships waiting to be developed.

The storage unit at 193 Stahlman will be open for snowbirds to retrieve items stored from the previous year on December 2, 9, 16, and 30 and Tuesday, January 2 from 2 pm. until 3 pm., and on January 6 and 13 from 9 until 10 am. Snowbirds should bring their receipts for verification when picking up stored items.

All of this information and more can be found on the Destin Snowbird website ([www.thedestinsnowbirds.com](http://www.thedestinsnowbirds.com)). On occasion, dates and times are changed, so make sure you review information posted to the website. Also, the Destin Snowbird Group Facebook page now has over 2,000 users. It's a great place to meet up with fellow snowbirds to share interests and activities.

