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LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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NEWS PHOTO BY ROD VEAL

Frank Carr, maestro of the Leisure World Orchestra, is also a master of the violin.

Music man strikes a chord

Carr is the leader of the band

BY CHERYL WALKER
THE NEWS

Frank Carr says he's surprised that a 6-year resident is being honored by the Historical Society as Leisure Worlder of the Month for October.

But there's no mystery when one asks Frank Carr's music-loving fans. Their response is instantaneous and heartfelt.

Charles Little, president of the Leisure World Foundation, says Carr has brought music appreciation in the community to new heights with his work with the Leisure World Orchestra, Leisure World Philharmonic Society and Commu-

nity Concerts.

"He's taken us on trips to hear music we would never have gone otherwise, like the recent trip to the Hollywood Bowl, I haven't been there in years with all the traffic going by car. But he arranged for us to go by bus from and back to Leisure World!"

Craig Charlton, a musician and member of various Leisure World performing groups, calls Carr a Renaissance man. "He is a soloist with my band, the Moonlighters (his great ability on the violin covers the gamut from the classics to ballads to swing) and he always has an upbeat comment or 'punny' joke at the ready."

Background

Carr is a native of Kew Gardens, N.Y., who loves music in all its forms. He has his bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from, respectively, the University of Ver-

mont (where he met his wife to be and fellow musician Marlene) and the University of Connecticut.

The Nutmeg State became home base for most of his career where he pioneered music programs in the towns of Mansfield and Willington.

He won 10 scholarships in violin (although he can play virtually any instrument, since he taught them all) and became chairman of the Eastern Connecticut Board of Education to boot.

He retired in 1999 and moved to Leisure World at the urging of his daughter who scoped out the place on the Internet.

Once here he plunged into the community's music world full tilt.

He joined and then took over the role of conductor at the Leisure World Orchestra, organized the Lovers of Music club, became co-president of Leisure World Community Concerts and played various parts in music ensembles, quartets and quintets.

He is particularly proud of the Lovers of Music, which has grown to more than 500 members since April.

Carr says even though he was considered a Wunderkind on the violin at age 4 he doesn't regret not following a solo-performing career as a youth or young adult.

Nor does he feel the burn out that makes one retire from a pursuit now that one's working years are over.

In fact, he's probably more consumed by music than ever in years past, indulging his love in rehearsals, performances, booking talent, conducting the orchestra, and on and on.

And Leisure Worlders can't seem to get enough of Carr: their own local music star.

Former Community Concert co-chair Joan Nugent says it best for all his many fans: "We're so lucky to have him."

Ceremony facts

Who: Frank Carr

What: Resident of the Month for October

Where: Clubhouse 6

When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 5

Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society with funding from Renaissance at the Regency.