



Meadow Sweet Circular



NEWSLETTER FOR THE COTTAGES AT RIVENDELL

RIVENDELL UNIT #1 NOVEMBER, 2009 EDITION

Margery Arendt, Editor

(941) 918-0953

margarendt@aol.com

Fax# (941) 918-4314

Tracy Arendt - Graphic Designer / Larry Ruckert • Web Master • larry@ruckert.com

For Newsletter and Community info when you're out of town, visit: www.thecottagesofrivendell.com

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CORNER

"DEAL OR NO DEAL"

Mac Segar

Shortly all property owners of record in The Cottages will be asked to vote on our proposed operating budget for the coming fiscal year beginning January, 2010. During the current economic "times" it's not just wise to consider what's best for the entire neighborhood it's virtually mandatory! When given the opportunity, study the proposal closely to insure you fully understand just exactly "what's what," ask questions and don't be afraid to express an opinion. Above all, remember it's your property that's involved!

At risk of being accused to trying to influence anyone's thinking, the following "examples" are hypothetical (almost tongue-in-cheek) but hopefully you'll get the idea.

A close look at the budget shows an item to install a ten foot, red, white and blue neon lighted barber pole in front of the bubbling fountain at a cost of "x" dollars. Meanwhile, there's another line item to spend "z" dollars to maintain the tennis courts septic system.

The most obvious difference between the two "budget" items is the barber pole is going to use twice, maybe three times, the amount designated for the septic system. One item falls into the category of a "nicety" the other into a "necessity." Get the picture? It could have been written, "get the drift" but that might have made things a bit too obvious!

Seriously, every owner has a huge stake in the future of our neighborhood. It may be hard to believe but time does fly. Some of The Cottage homes are teenagers and the others aren't far behind. While the houses themselves are not part of the budget process the land they sit on sure is. As you study

each proposed item and its related dollar amount keep these thoughts in mind.

First and foremost, what's best for the entire neighborhood? Secondly, is this item really needed to maintain Unit#1 or is it just frosting on the cake? Frosting has a price that can be avoided. Take gingerbread for an example. It tastes great just plain.

When the date and time is set for the budget meeting all owners or their representatives are urged to attend. When the vote comes will budget for 2010 be an informed "deal or no deal?"

SNAKES

Have you ever noticed the entry road into the Pine View School is named "Python Path"? Well, don't start to worry (yet) but there could be some real solid meaning behind that name in the future!

There have been all sorts of news and sightings of pythons in southern Florida including a "confirmed" sighting of at least two pythons (exact size unknown) in Oscar Scherer State Park. I don't know how they know its "2" as opposed to the same one twice but I guess it's like the deer running across the road, there's always a second right behind. But I've always wondered, how you know the deer you just saw was the first. Couldn't it be the second one?

Anyhow, according to park officials, along with the pythons there is a fairly large population of diamond back rattlesnakes. It must be noted neither a python nor diamond back have been seen in our neighborhood. Once in a while a pigmy rattlesnake has been seen in the Cottages but not recently. As I recall there was an "unconfirmed" sighting of the Coral snake in the Cottages several years ago.

Quite frequently what you will see is the small, copper colored Corn snake and our old friend, the Black Racer. Both are harmless but I can attest to the fact the Black Racer has a mean disposition and when disturbed will bite. I didn't learn this fact the first time but after bite #2 "Blackie" made me a believer. It felt like a cut from a razor blade. The Corn snake likes the bushes and under growth while the Black Racer seems to hide in the longer grass. One thing a bit unusual about the Racer, it will be "out" after dark and seems to like to lie on the warm cement surfaces, which means it might slither to a lanai.

Moral of all this? Be aware of your surroundings! We do live in an area where strange things can happen. Next month we'll tell you about the alligator in the bathtub!

T&H COMPTROLLERS IS NEW ACCOUNTING FIRM

Beginning November 2nd, our RivU1NA financials and monthly figures will be organized and maintained by T&H Comptrollers, a Venice-based CPA company that comes to MSC highly recommended. This operation, whose CEO is Lyndi Wickerson, works very closely with Sunstate Management's Michelle Thibeault, and together they will be monitoring our association books and general business activities.

Our 2010 budget information will be mailed to you soon, as mentioned at the October boardmeeting. The increase in dues is four percent and you'll be receiving quarterly invoices from now on to make sure all payments are more orderly and timely. Payment instructions will be forthcoming and we'll continue to use Superior Bank, so no change there.

The MSC board appreciates your continuing support as we address ongoing business matters forthrightly and continue to improve the operation of our small community association, while creating a more logical approach to handling things as we move ahead into 2010 and the years to come.

Your RivU1NA board of directors.

WATER AEROBICS

Lauren Vines, a water aerobics teacher with fitness insurance, will begin teaching at the Clubhouse pool with two classes each week. The first will run from 1-2 PM on Monday, November 2nd. The second class is Wednesday, November 4th from 1-2.



Lauren currently teaches at the YMCA and other county communities. She is asking for \$5.00 per class. Please bring a noodle, sunscreen and a hat. Men and women welcome.

See you in the water, Jane Lettich

“ Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere. ”

Albert Einstein

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

On Saturday, January 30 we will again have a neighborhood garage sale. Start saving and cleaning out your closets, cabinets, drawers, and attics for the new year. Details will come in January. Questions: contact Jackie Axiom 966-0408.



CALENDAR OF UP-COMING EVENTS



November 14 Saturday- 5 PM

Thankful Day

Pafumi & Bly

December 5 –Saturday- 5 PM

Holiday Party

Arendt & Bly



January 10 –Sunday - 10AM

Coffee

Bragg & Brown

DATES TO FLY THE FLAG



November 3 - Election Day

November 11 - Veterans' Day

Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving Day

December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day

December 25 - Christmas Day

OCTOBERFEST

Our Octoberfest was a great success. We had very good attendance and many compliments.

Accordianist Frank Padula played polkas and all kinds of music from the good old days. There was dancing and laughing and singing-along. The accoustics, with our new ceiling panels, were very much improved, making pleasant conversation possible. There was plenty of food and drink.

There was much work done by so many poeple - too many to list. It was a real team effort, from early planning to the last dish washed and last chair put away.

To all of you who did so much - Thank you!



E-MAIL YOUR E-MAIL

We would like to include e-mail addresses in our next directory update. Please send yours to margarendt@aol.com so that yours may be included. Thank you.

BOARD CONTACT

Jane Lettich 966-2425 knjlet@verizon.net
 Mike Georgopolis... 966-8787 mikeopolis@earthlink.net
 Jack Terry 918-0108 ajt46@yahoo.com
 Margery Arendt..... 918-0953 margarendt@aol.com
 Carole Myles 918-9702 claylane@aol.com



**TROPICAL BAY
INSURANCE LLC.**

Bill Bay

Home • Auto • Health • Life

Tel: 941-244-2683
 Cell: 941-266-2835
 Fax: 941-244-2684
billbay@tropicalbay.net
www.TropicalBay.net

395 Commercial Ct.
 Suite C
 Venice, FL 34292