

# OUR CIRCLE REPORT

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www.thecottagesofrivendell.com

**FEBRUARY 2008**

**VOL.1 NO.10**

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## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Our Cottages annual meeting will be held February 26th and one of the key things we do is elect new board members to fill the vacancies created by the staggered terms on our board. This year there are three vacancies and we will seek nominees.

Due to resignations, we had three neighbors (Carole Myles, Jane Lettich and Bob Axiom) fill the terms who may run for those positions. If others would like to serve, we would be happy to hear of it and get their names on the ballot.

The board meets about eight times a year and is responsible for the upkeep of the clubhouse, pool as well as the maintenance of the lawns and common areas. In addition, the board manages our annual budget. The board also functions as the architectural review committee as needed, and is responsible for enforcement of our deed restrictions.

Typically each board member serves on one or more of the subcommittees - maintenance/grounds or finance. The work involves being available for board meetings, and staying up-to-date on activities and operations of the community. A few hours per month and the meetings are the main time commitment. One also needs a great deal of patience and willingness to tackle the occasional problem which may require an unpopular decision.

Pay is limited to the good feeling one gets in knowing that one helped make the Cottages a better place for all and our standards are being upheld and the values enhanced by their work.

Is it worth it? You bet! It is also an important part of the responsibility we have to each other in this deed restricted community. We all gain a great deal of value from high standards **AND we need your help...** Please give some serious thought to volunteering and helping with this part of our neighborhood activities.

Bill Straw, Nominating Chairman

## **NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD**

The following is highlight news from the most recent Board meeting and **IS NOT OFFICIAL** until they are approved at the next meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm in the Club House on January 10th. Directors Axiom, Myles & Straw were present and 20 HOA members attended.

**Comments & Questions** from homeowners included:

1. West Bay not doing trimming and cleaning along Rivendell Blvd and Old Venice Rd. West Bay will take corrective action.
2. Light at entrance to Cottages questioned. Installation soon.
3. Trees in common areas can not be removed without Board approval & a suitable replacement planted.
4. Lighthouse inspection procedures questioned because of the condition of a few Cottage homes needing attention such as painting, mold on house and/or fence, loose or no "pick-up" after pets.
5. Mailboxes may be painted (touched up) by residents.
6. Questions about shrubs. See Growing On You, page 2 and Majorcut, page 3.

### **Committee Reports**

**Buildings/Grounds:** Completed items included repairs to irrigation and streetlights, major shrub & greenery cut back (see page 3) upcoming.

**Finance:** Finished 2007 with reasonable surplus, 2008 dues for Cottages \$430 per quarter. 2009 dues are projected to be increased by 5% due to increased expenses.

**Nominating:** Committee again asked if anyone wanted to volunteer for board election as the only slate we have to run at present are Directors Axiom, Myles and Lettich.

### **New Business**

Villas Unit in "Big Rivendell" requested the use of our Club House for annual meeting. Motion was made to deny use of the clubhouse to additional groups at this time. Motion carried.

The next regular board meeting will be Tuesday, February 12th at 7pm in the Club House. Annual meeting 7pm Thursday, 2/28 at a location to be determined..



## GROWING ON YOU

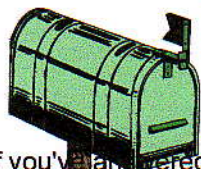
A question was raised during the 1/10/08 Board Meeting regarding shrubs planted by homeowners.



There is to be a meeting on February 5th by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They are looking for three (3) residents in all of Rivendell to volunteer their yards to be landscaped with Florida friendly plants. The location and time of this meeting is 4:00pm at the First Baptist Church, 265 North Tamiami Trail (next to Spanish Point).

For more details, please refer to the January, 2008 issue of the Woodland Word (page 5)

## MAILBOX REPAIR ?



Is your mailbox in need of repair? Is the door operating correctly? Does the flag need paint or replacement? Is the entire post secure at the base in the ground?

If you've answered "yes" to any of these questions or there's another problem, please notify the Maintenance Group at: [unit1maintenance@yahoo.com](mailto:unit1maintenance@yahoo.com)

Please be sure all problems are explained in writing. All repairs to mailboxes/lights are the responsibility of our association.

Once the list of problems has been compiled, the Board will authorize the work to be done in batches to help manage costs.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Catering For All Seasons prepared holiday foods. Margery made round, red tablecloths for tables set up by poolside. Terry Sweeney and Mike Georgopolis wrapped columns and strung tiny white lights. The weather was balmy and clear. The conversations were bright and the food was delicious. Next year we will have music.

Thanks for all who helped decorate, set up and take down. Would list names, but you know who you are.

Also, I'd like to recognize and thank Rosemary Haley for work in making the kid's Christmas party a huge success.

Jane Lettich, Activities Committee

## WHAT'S COOKING ?

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Have you a favorite recipe you'd like to share with your neighbors? If you do, please send it to: What's Cooking at [cottagenews84@yahoo.com](mailto:cottagenews84@yahoo.com).



### Mandarin-Walnut Lettuce Salad

<b>4 1/2 teaspoons</b> sugar	<b>1 1/2 teaspoons</b> water
<b>3 tablespoons</b> chopped walnuts	<b>4 1/2 teaspoons</b> olive oil
<b>2 1/4 teaspoons</b> tarragon vinegar	<b>Dash</b> of salt
<b>2 1/2 cups</b> torn Boston lettuce	<b>2/3 cups</b> mandarin oranges

In a small sauce pan over medium-heat, bring the sugar and water to a boil, stirring constantly. Add walnuts; cook and stir for 2-3 minutes or until lightly browned. Spread onto a piece of greased foil; set aside.

In a small bowl, whisk the oil, vinegar and salt. In a salad bowl, combine lettuce and oranges. Drizzle with dressing and sprinkle with walnuts; toss to coat. Serve immediately.

**Yield: 2 servings**

The sweetened walnuts add a nice crunch to this salad and a taste compatible with oranges. The dressing is sweet, tangy and just right for the simple ingredients of the salad.

## OCR - ONE YEAR

With this issue of OUR CIRCLE REPORT marks the end of the first year of publication. Some months it took burning the "midnight oil" to maintain deadlines but they were met. Using journalism terms, "all issues were put to bed on-time."



But the one thing that has been missing for almost a year is feedback from the readers. What do you like about OCR? What articles perk your interest? Have you tried any of the recipes? What needs "fixing"? Is there something you'd like to see added? Maybe you have something you'd like to write?

Bottom line, your comments are needed and appreciated. After all, it's your newsletter and only you know what you'd like to see included with each issue. Please send all remarks to:

[cottagenews84@yahoo.com](mailto:cottagenews84@yahoo.com)



## IRRIGATION CHANGES ?

In the name of water conservation many of you may already be aware recent words from Sarasota County regarding community irrigation will affect our neighborhood if the proposed changes take affect.

One proposal was to allow irrigation only once every fourteen days. Most of our timer boxes function on a seven day cycle or less. Fortunately for the Cottages this idea seems to have been rejected. It would be nothing short of a nightmare to regulate our irrigation.

While nothing definite has been decided the plan which seems to have the most support is to reduce the hours allowed for irrigation. No irrigation between the hours of 4am and 9pm.

Should a change be mandated by the County the Maintenance Group has, following the guidelines, setup a new irrigation schedule. This schedule puts the least strain on our master pump. Only six (6) properties will be irrigated at one time and there will be no "over lapping" as has been the custom.

If, and when, a change is necessary all residents will receive a copy of exactly when (day & time) their properties should be irrigated and what other properties are being irrigated at the same time.

Residents will be asked to report to the Maintenance Group any irregularities in the operation of their system or if they notice or see evidence any other system operating "off schedule" so adjustments can be made as soon as possible..

It is imperative all residents cooperate to insure each yard gets the maximum irrigation coverage.

## KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

A Children's Holiday Party was held at the Club House December 9th. Children, dressed in Holiday style, enjoyed crafts making their own photo frame, games, of pass the candy cane and musical holiday chairs. Great prizes were won! Holiday cookies and eggnog was enjoyed by all.



Of course, no Christmas Party would be complete without a visit from Santa Claus. Santa arrived right on schedule and read "T'was The Night Before Christmas" in the first person getting many "oohs and aahs" from those filling the room. Santa spoke to each child and had a gift for every one of them. A very "Merry" time was had by all.

## 5th ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

5th Annual Garage Sale coming up.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 1**  
**8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**



Now is the time to clean out your closets, cabinets, drawers, attic, garage for the new year. If you would like to participate,

**Contact: Jackie Axiom (966-0408)**

A small advertising fee of \$3.00 will cover the newspaper ad and provide balloons for your mailbox. If you would like to donate items to the clubhouse sale contact Jackie Axiom (966-0408) or Margery Arendt (918-0953). All items donated and not sold by the end of the day will be given to charity. Any profit will be given to the activities fund.

Don't delay! Now is the time to clean out!

## MAJOR CUT UPCOMING

All residents are being reminded again, there will be a major detail cut of all shrubs, small trees and bushes after the threat of any frost has past. This cut should be some time in March.

The purpose of this cut is to rid the neighborhood of dead or dying foliage and to thin out areas which are over grown. In some cases the growth which is removed will be replaced with more manageable items while others will not be replaced leaving room for what's there to "grow and fill-in" and allow for better irrigation.

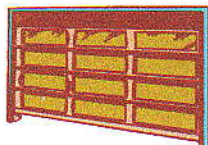
There will be no "guaranties as to what goes or what stays!" ValleyCrest's land care specialists are in the process of formulating a plan best suited for the Cottages.

Because we are a **"maintenance free"** community, our contractors have to make general decisions on what to cut, and when. Special treatment of one property over another is not an option. Cutting/trimming is an **"all or nothing"** decision and if an owner does not want this trim that property will be skipped and noted. We recognize this may not please everyone, but it's the only practical way to work with 85 lots at one time.

To get an idea of the effect of this trim, take a look at the shrubs on the west side of the clubhouse around the air conditioner unit. They were cut back last fall and are growing back more denselv and stronger than they were before.



## GARAGE DOORS



A few weeks ago one of our neighbors had their automatic garage door opener fail. This in itself is really no big deal and with all the homes getting older each year

things of this nature can and should be expected. The inner workings (the gears) are mostly hard plastic, an operational board (printed circuit) and of course, the exterior belts or chains. These parts can wear out but the complete operating system should last 15 years, maybe more, from time of the original installation.

Keeping in mind the repairman receives a commission on all work he "sells", make sure you fully understand what's wrong with the opener and just what it should take to repair it. In most cases the repairman will "suggest" it's time for a complete new unit. Like, upgrade to a 1/2 HP motor vs the 1/3 HP motor most doors have now.

New gears are relatively cheap and a new board (labor included) will be in the neighborhood of \$180 but a complete new, 1/2 HP unit will be close to \$500. One other thing, if you have a "key pad" door opener now and you get the 1/2 HP opener, your key pad will not work. You'll have to purchase a new one. Another "expense"!

For the "do-it-yourselfers" all this may be a moot point but if you must rely on Mr. Repairman be sure you're fully informed on the problem. More important, probably all you'll need are parts! Not a complete new unit.

The phone number for who installed your unit should be affixed to the side of the black opener box.

## HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS



Ghouls of all ages attended the Cottages Halloween Party on October 31st, hosted by Rosemary and Austin Haley, Justin and C.J. Morrison. After trick or treating door-to-door on the circle, big and little kids alike enjoyed playing games like:

bobbing for apples, musical pumpkin chairs and relay races. There also was a very competitive costume contest.

Party goers included witches, pirates, Minnie Mouse, Scream, and an adorable pumpkin. Even the world famous superheroes, The Incredibles, took time from their busy schedule to make an appearance.

Party goers enjoyed Eyeball Punch and Ghostly baked goods. A ghastly good time was had by all..

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



All activities are held in the Club House unless otherwise noted.

- February 2 - Mardi Gras
- February 16 - Valentine Bingo
- March 1 - 5th Annual Garage Sale
- March 15 - St. Patrick's Day Dinner
- April 12 - Breakfast At The Jetty, Nokomis Beach
- May 3 - Cinco de Mayo

Please contact Jane Lettich (966-0856 or [jlet@comcast.net](mailto:jlet@comcast.net)) for further information.



## BOARD of DIRECTORS & COMMITTEES

**BOB AXSIOM - 1ST VICE PRESIDENT, MAINTENANCE**

Tel. # 966-0408 ----- e-mail: [axsiomjr@verizon.net](mailto:axsiomjr@verizon.net)

**JOHN HUWILER - VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCIAL**

Tel.# 966-0856-----e-mail: [janjohnlp@aol.com](mailto:janjohnlp@aol.com)

**JANE LETTICH - SECRETARY, ACTIVITIES**

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**BILL STRAW - PRESIDENT (Maintenance Back-Up)**

Tel.# 312-2494 ----- e-mail: [billstraw@yahoo.com](mailto:billstraw@yahoo.com)

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**LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY MGT - (941)966-6844**

Contact:: Kyanne Merrill [kyannemerrill@mgmt.tv](mailto:kyannemerrill@mgmt.tv)

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## CONTACTING US VIA E-MAIL

Problems with Maintenance, Street Lights or Irrigation  
[unit1maintenance@yahoo.com](mailto:unit1maintenance@yahoo.com)

News Items or Comments For OUR CIRCLE REPORT  
[cottagenews84@yahoo.com](mailto:cottagenews84@yahoo.com)

**PLEASE, IF YOU SEE ANY PROBLEM IN THE COTTAGES,  
 REPORT IT ASAP BY PHONE OR E-MAIL. DO NOT WAIT !**

***OUR CIRCLE REPORT is not responsible for any errors  
 which may alter the original intent of the written material.***