

OUR CIRCLE REPORT

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WELCOME

With this first issue we'd like to welcome a new neighbor:

OUR CIRCLE REPORT

Each neighbor can periodically expect to receive a copy that will contain the latest news concerning our neighborhood.

Included will be reports from our directors, committee chairs, accounts of social activities and other news and views of interest to us all.

To make any publication newsworthy we'll need your input too. Most any article you'd like to share with neighbors (except the "Big Two"- politics & religion) will be appreciated.

Material for publication can be sent via e-mail to:

cottagenews84@yahoo.com

While OUR CIRCLE REPORT is intended to be informative it is not responsible for any errors contained therein which might alter the basic meaning of the article.

LANDSCAPE REPORT

Just take one look around our neighborhood and you can see the landscaping needs a lot of work. With the end of winter & the grass and plants start to grow again our mowing service will be done weekly.

Restoration begins with a valid contract ! At the present time the directors are soliciting bids from several lawn service companies (including T.J.'s) to serve our yards & common areas. The signed contract will include (but not to be limited

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Recent happenings included a "Fat Tuesday", St. Patrick's Day Corn Beef Dinner and several coffee hours.

If you have an activity you'd like scheduled in OUR CIRCLE REPORT please e-mail them to:

cottagenews84@yahoo.com

NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD

At this writing March is half over & with extensive work to be done we're readying for the next board meeting 3/29 at 10am in our Club House. Items on the agenda for discussion include:

...Fence situation along the south boundary line

...Large oaks need trimming & thinning

...General decline of lawns & plantings

...Contract bids for complete lawn care services

The management contract of Professional Community Services is being terminated. It will be replaced by an accounting service and utilization of the services we've been paying for from Lighthouse Management through the master association. This move, along with additional oversight of our current contractors by your board, finance & grounds committees, will save Unit #1 substantial sums over the next year.

The Maintenance/Grounds Committee has been busy resetting irrigation timers, surveying landscape areas for repair & making recommendations for improvements. We have set up an e-mail maintenance "hot line" for your use "24-7". If you have **any** concern e-mail it to **unit1maintenance@yahoo.com**.

Lastly, it's great to see so many homes being "freshened up" with new paint & landscape. While the Florida sun is great for golf, tennis & swimming it's hard on your house & lawns. Thank you to all who are working hard to make The Cottages an attractive & pleasant place to call "home".

Your board looks forward to seeing you at our next meeting at 10:00am on the 29th & we thank you for your support.

Bob Axiom, John Huwiler, Jane Lettich, Carol Myles & Bill Straw

DRIVERS BEWARE

**WHEN DRIVING ON US41 IN EITHER DIRECTION
BETWEEN RV WORLD AND THE VENICE BY-PASS
THE SPEED LIMIT IS NOW 35MPH. THIS IS A
CONSTRUCTION ZONE AND FINES ARE DOUBLED !**



HANDYMAN SERVICES

From time-to-time we need the services of a handyman. Unit #1 has a list of licensed, insured and reliable handymen who will perform fix-ups, repairs and just about any minor task you might require at reasonable rates.

Please write an e-mail to unit1maintenance@yahoo.com explaining what you want done and we'll give you the name(s) of knowledgeable people to do your job.

It will be your responsibility to contact & negotiate with the handyman.

GROWING ON YOU

In each issue of **OUR CIRCLE REPORT** we plan to have an article devoted to gardening. If you'd like to be a contributor please send your article via e-mail to:

cottagenews84@yahoo.com

If e-mail isn't available please give a written copy to any of your Board of Directors.

"Spring" is in the air". Flowering bushes and plants are showing their colors and our Crepe Myrtle trees have been trimmed back by the landscape company which will enhance their blooms later in the season. Hibiscus, Indian Hawthorn and Star Jasmine bushes are in bloom. We hope you enjoyed the spectacular display of peach colored Amaryllis along the fence at 557 MSC and just inside the fence at 536 MSC it is a pleasure to see the Louis Phillipi roses as you walk by.



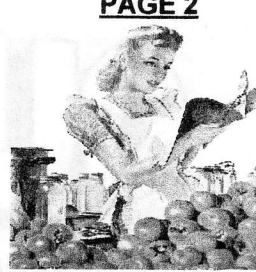
For those wanting to plant flowers for color, good choices are: Geraniums (need to be "dead headed" periodically), Lantana, Impatiens (plant in partial shade as they will wilt in the hot sun), Pentas & Blue Daze (prettiest in the morning before the heat of the day). A display of Blue Daze can be seen at 508 MSC along the front walk.

A word of caution if you plant annuals - County water restrictions apply ! Our automated irrigation system can operate only once per week which means you'll need to "hand water" annuals when needed.

As you go through the Cottages - "take time to see the blossoms" and enjoy.

WHAT'S COOKING ?

Everybody has a most memorable meal. One they really think is extra special. Maybe even one passed down from years ago. If you have one you'd like to share pass it along to cottagenews84@yahoo.com.



Sausage Rice Casserole

1/2 pound bulk Italian sausage **1/2 cup** uncooked instant rice
1/4 cup chopped onion **1/4 teaspoon** dried basil
1/4 cup chopped sweet red pepper **1/4 cup** water
1 can (10-3/4 oz) condensed tomato soup, undiluted
1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese, divided

In a small skillet, cook sausage, onion & red peppers over medium heat until sausage is no longer pink; drain. Remove from the heat. Stir in the rice, basil, soup, water & 1/4 cup cheese.

Transfer to an ungreased 3-cup baking dish. Cover & bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes (or until rice is tender). Uncover, sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake for 5 minutes longer or until cheese has melted. This will make two servings.

WHAT'S WITH IRRIGATION

All timer boxes have been set per County regulations to operate for forty-five (45) minutes once per week. A maximum of six (6) timers should be "on" at the same time.

Residents are requested, **PLEASE DO NOT RESET** your timer.

If you have a problem, contact the maintenance group at unit1maintenance@yahoo.com

There are some timers which are affected by an in-house power failure. If you lose power please notify the maintenance group via e-mail immediately so as not to lose coverage.

During the recent inspection of the irrigation timer boxes it was noted there are several of the older timers which **should be** replaced. Most of the homes in the Cottages were originally equipped with **TORO GREENSKEEPER** timers. Many residents have already replaced their timers but there are some owners who should "think about" replacing theirs.

Your Maintenance Committee is presently contacting several irrigation companies to get prices for replacements. When we have what we feel is the best price & best value, those owners whose timer boxes should be replaced will be notified. Ultimately it's the owners responsibility to have the timer box in good operational order.