

OUR CIRCLE REPORT

cottagenews84@yahoo.com

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ACTIVITIES REPORT

STITCH & GAB

Tuesday, May 15th 10:00am at The Club House

Bring your favorite project, no matter how simple. We love to chat (it's cheaper than therapy). All are welcome.

LADIES DAY OUT - Thursday, April 26th

This will be our last outing of the season and for this occasion the gentlemen have been invited. We are delighted to have quite a number of residents joining us for the Fiorelli Winery Tour in Bradenton. We plan to carpool leaving the Club House at 10:00am as our booked tour begins at 11:00am. The tour includes the traditional wine tasting with cheese, crackers and grapes available. **Cost is \$7.50 per person.** Please call Audrey or Terry Sweeney at 918-0550 by Sunday, April 22nd to confirm your reservation..

SUMMER MONTHS

Spur of the moment movies, lunches, shopping, boat trips, etc. may be happening. Contact Audrey Sweeney for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 20th - Plan to attend our Spring Brunch at Stoneybrook Country Club. Watch for flyers closer to date.

LANDSCAPE REPORT

In a strange sort of way our neighborhood finally caught a break in the never ending saga regarding landscaping. The heavy rain we had a week or so ago came just a day after the lawn service fertilized our lawns. This meant the fertilizer got to the root system rather than sit on the lawn to be burned away by the sun.

Effective May 1st our new lawn service company will be ValleyCrest. Your board is working with ValleyCrest management to finalize the contents of our contract. Once the contract is official it is planned to have available to all residents the services ValleyCrest will provide and a schedule as to when those services will be done.

Landscape or maintenance may be reached via e-mail at

unit1maintenance@yahoo.com

NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD

The following is hi-lite news from the most recent Board Meeting and is **NOT OFFICIAL** until Board approved.

The meeting called to order at 10:00am, March 29th with all board members present along with 24 residents. Meeting opened with remarks by residents. Concerns raised included street lighting, south boundary fence repair, County letters regarding backflow check, common area plants and weed control.

Unfinished business included financial figures indicating we have money available for "all we need to do". Also, the Grounds Committee as been active checking, resetting and testing individual irrigation timers. The contract for our management company PCS will be terminated 4/30/07. Discussions was held regarding the three (3) bids submitted for our lawn services (T.J.'s, Teal Landscaping & ValleyCrest).

Open forum for residents to discuss the lawn service needs with the board resulted in ValleyCrest being hired effective 5/1.

New business covered was to get bids for south boundary fence repair, establish petty cash fund (\$100) for minor repairs such as fuses, bulbs, sensors and irrigation parts. It is planned to utilize the services (we already pay for through the Master Association) of Lighthouse Management. Cleanliness of the Club House and bathrooms needs to be monitored. It was suggested the three (3) "interim" Board members fill the full term until February 2008 elections. Suggestions were made for a better, more secure distribution of "Our Circle Report".

From the floor, all Cottage residents were urged to attend the meetings of the Master Association and finally, one attendee indicated they were "glad to be here (at the meeting) because it was so informative".

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 26th at 7:00pm in the Club House.

GROWING ON YOU

April has brought us some new flowers to enjoy. Bougainvilleas (the red or purple brats can be seen on fences and are most noticeable in the alley and hanging over the courtyard wall at 531 MSC). The Gold Trees (large clusters of bright yellow flowers) could be seen in the park. Along the fence on Old Venice Road the Oleanders are blooming too. Crepe Myrtle trees are sporting their new growth. Hibiscus and Indian Hawthorn continue to bloom.



Two nice examples of new annual plantings can be seen in front of the fence at 558 MSC (Vinca/Periwinkle) and red Geraniums in the front yard at 520 MSC. Also, have you seen the complete new landscape plantings at 555 MSC?

Even though we recently had almost 3" of rain, we are still experiencing drought conditions. It is not a good time to plant flowers unless you are dedicated to hand watering daily until they are well established.

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

TRAVEL TIP

When making travel arrangements, especially by airplane, use your cell phone as your primary contact number! It could save you a lot of wasted time.



Recently a resident had the misfortune of being involved with a "canceled" flight due to a fire in the cargo area (fortunately before take-off). After a hasty but orderly plane evacuation & over a 3 hour wait-in-line, rebooking new flights & overnight accommodations were made.

Within 20 minutes of cancellation, United/TED Airlines, had called the traveler with all the required information to continue the trip home, where to obtain food vouchers and what hotel to stay at. Only problem was the airline called the home phone in Osprey & the resident was in Reno, NV. If only the resident had given the airline their cell phone number ... no waiting..

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.



Here's a summer dish e-mailed to cottagenews84 signed by "Mary"

Creamy Cranberry Gelatin

1 cup orange juice 1 package (3 ounces) pineapple gelatin
1 package (3 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1 can (16 ounces) jellied cranberry sauce

Bring orange juice to a boil, place pineapple gelatin in a small bowl; add orange juice & stir until dissolved. Refrigerate until slightly thickened.

In a small mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Add cranberry sauce; beat until smooth. Beat in gelatin mixture. Pour into six (6) 1/2 cup gelatin molds coated with nonstick cooking spray. Refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Unmold onto serving plates.

IRRIGATION NEWS

Residents are requested, **PLEASE DO NOT RESET** your timer. If you have a problem, contact the maintenance group at unit1maintenance@yahoo.com

Last weekend the Cottages experienced a slight interruption in power and this may have caused your timer box to "reset" itself. The Maintenance Group will reset the timer as required, but if yours still appears to be operating "off schedule", please let us know via e-mail or contact the Board.

Some residents have had their old irrigation timer boxes replaced while there are still others who should have theirs replaced. If your timer box is one of those needing to be replaced, you will be notified.

If you see a broken sprinkler head that makes it appear you have a 2nd Old Faithful, please notify the Maintenance Group. The Cottages have on-hand a wide selection of sprinkler heads and assemblies to make our own repairs.

WORD PUZZLE

Each issue may contain some mis-spelled words. They are carefully hidden and may not appear as wrong spellings to the average reader. Did you notice "Activites" Report last month? That was one. Give your self one point for every one you find in this issue.

As a bonus, award yourself three points for any bad grammar you see. Send your total points to cottagenews84@yahoo.com. There may be a "surprise" prize for our winner!

IT'S COLD - FOR NOW



Your air conditioner is working great ! Cool when you need it, warm when the occasion arises and you've had a maintenance contract with Blue Face AC & Heating since the day you moved into your home. Great !

But, the time is approaching when that reliable AC unit may start to show signs of age. A repair bill here, another repair bill there and before you know it Mr. Blue Face knocks on your door with the news, "It's the condenser this time". Don't be too surprised as the average life span for air conditioners in this part of the country is "about" eight years.

Several of your neighbors have already had their AC units replaced. Your turn may not be too far away.



BOARD of DIRECTORS & COMMITTEES

BOB AXSIOM - MAINTENANCE/GROUNDS

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Committee members ----- Jack Martin, Mac Segar

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Committee members ----- Margerary Arendt,

Steve Bradich, Mike Georgopolis

JANE LETTICH - ACTIVITIES

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Committee members ----- Joanne Segar, Elizabeth Straw

BILL STRAW - MAINTENANCE/GROUNDS (backup)

Tel.#966-0403 ----- e-mail: billstraw@yahoo.com

CONTACTING US VIA E-MAIL

Problems with Maintenance, Street Lights or Irrigation

unit1maintenance@yahoo.com

News Items or Comments For OUR CIRCLE REPORT

cottagenews84@yahoo.com

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

ANNUAL BBQ

Submitted By Margery Arendt

The annual Cottages BBQ, hosted this year by Jane Lettich and Margery Arendt, was held at Nokomis Beach North Jetty on Friday the 13th. Despite the date, the weather was beautiful and the food, catered by Woddy's Barbeque was great. The Sweeney's brought ice and cold drinks. Bill Kella, Bob Axiom and Mario Lacenere served the food. Most of the gentlemen present participated in Bacci Ball games, also provided by Mario. A special thanks goes to Jane Lettich for her hard work helping to put it all together. All who attended had a lovely time.

SUMMER SECURITY



Are you going north for several months ? Maybe you're planning to be away for a few weeks. Or possibly, only a week or two. In any event, have you made arrangements with a neighbor who will be here during your absents to "watch" your house ?

Fortunately (knock on wood) the Cottages have been virtually crime free but weather conditions, electrical problems, crawling critters, etc., may make it necessary to get in touch with you while you're away.

Case in point. A few years ago a resident's refrigerator failed and the person watching the house was able to contact the owner and get the necessary "approval" to have the unit repaired before the owner returned in the fall.

Please provide a land phone number or cell phone number and ideally an e-mail address to a responsible neighbor so you can be reached "just in case". Also, let the Board know who you've designated as your "watchperson".

COMMUNICATION NOTES

For those residents wanting to have an article in OUR CIRCLE REPORT but do not have or use e-mail, please provide your written news or comments to Carole Myles, Board Communications Liaison, at 575 MSC.

Those using e-mail, please send your copy to:

cottagenews84@yahoo.com

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

IMPORTANT SURVEY – PLEASE READ

When there was a change in the makeup of the Cottages board in February, the two elected members, John Huwiler and Bill Straw were required to appoint replacements to serve out the terms of the three members who resigned. As part of that process, John and Bill suggested that due to the appointment of a majority of the Board, it could be on an interim basis and a special election called in May to elect replacement members to serve to the next election thus giving the community more input on the makeup of the Board.

The appointees are Bob Axiom, Jane Lettich and Carole Myles.

In light of the qualifications and commitment of the "interim" volunteer members, it has been suggested that they serve out the terms to the next scheduled election in February 2008, as provided in our bylaws and deed restrictions.

That would save a great deal of effort and some expense, *but we wanted to have community input before changing from the commitment made earlier.*

Please take a moment to make a notation on the slip below and express your opinion on whether there should be a special election.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION ON THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,

YOUR COTTAGES BOARD

SURVEY

PLEASE LEAVE COMPLETED SURVEY IN THE SURVEY BOX LOCATED ON THE BACK PORCH OF THE CLUBHOUSE

In your opinion....

Should the volunteer board members appointed to finish out the terms ending in February 2008 remain as is? _____

or

Should there be a special election to select replacements to serve until February 2008? _____

No names or signatures will be needed or kept, this is simply a survey to assist the board in making a decision.

Comments if any: _____
