

OUR CIRCLE REPORT

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www.thecottagesofrivendell.com

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VERIZON NOTES

Verizon has completed the installation of the fiber optic cables and related boxes, connectors, etc., to supply our neighborhood with their services. Several residents have already subscribed to Verizon with more expected to do so.

Just like any of the cable providers, **Verizon warns** all their e-mail customers to be aware of a "**phishing scam e-mail**".

Here's how it works, Subscribers may receive an e-mail supposedly from Verizon trying to lure customers to a fraudulent web site to input personal information. If you should receive such an e-mail **delete it immediately!**

Verizon will never ask for personal or account information via e-mail.

WATER BACKFLOW

Recently the County was in our neighborhood inspecting the backflow valves at each residents fresh water source. The reason for this inspection is to insure the water in the lines at the house is not returning, or flowing, back to the main system and with this "backflow" any pollutants which could cause harm to the main water supply.

If the County finds that a backflow valve is defective and needs to be replaced the party responsible for paying the water bill will be so advised.

The County will include with the replacement order a form which must be completed by a licensed plumber and returned to the County. The person receiving the failure notice is the one who must get work done. The replacement price will vary depending which plumber you call. People who received a notice last year the repair cost ranged from \$45-\$90.



An owner has 30 days to comply with the County directive before fines may be imposed.

NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD

The following is highlight news from the most recent Board Meeting and **is not official** until approved at the next meeting.

Prior to the actual meeting Demetra McBride, Urban Forestry Division of Sarasota, spoke about the possible certification of Canopy Designation for Meadow Sweet Circle. The Board will get official guidelines from the County and to avoid confusion all homeowners will be provided with the necessary information.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00pm with Directors Axiom, Huwiler & Myles attending. The minutes of the April meeting will be approved at the June 17th meeting.

Input from homeowners attending included:

1. Front entrance needs improvement (debris, sod, irrigation).
Motion made & passed for this work to be done.
2. Request for a "No Smoking" sign posted at the pool.
See note in Board Activity and Comments page.
3. Status of solar power heat for pool.
Board still waiting for additional bids before any vote.
4. Status of land clearing on the south side of the property fence as this area is a potential fire hazard.
County Fire Department & property owner have been notified in the past but no action taken by either party.
5. Status on the repair & recoating to the alley.
Board will get quotes.

The Treasurer's report was not available. Copies of the financials are included in this issue of OCR.

Next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, June 17th, 7:00pm in the Club House.

OCR ISSUE SCHEDULE

Due to personal obligations including work schedule and vacations the next issue of OUR CIRCLE REPORT will be on or about the first of August. Any urgent news will be posted on a red sheet at the Club House.

GROWING ON YOU

After years of pruning are your shrubs looking scraggly and woody instead of robust with foliage? This is very common and before you replace them do a bit of research to find the shrubs which won't require much maintenance.



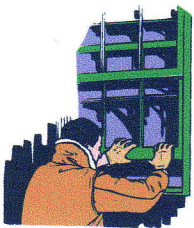
The Florida-friendly plant database at the University of Florida

(<http://FloridaYards.org>), has what you need. It allows you to pre-select categories then it allows you to specify light, soil & moisture conditions associated with your land. The result is an extensive list of plant choices with all the pertinent cultural information to grow them successfully. Color photos are included to aid you in your selections.

When planning your landscaping keep in mind what the "mature" height will be. To eliminate the need for extensive care and adding to the life of your choice, don't plant a shrub or bush which will mature at 5 to 6 feet beneath a window sill of 4 four feet. Apply the same theory to adding ground cover. Don't plant something which will "crawl" all over the place. Keep ground cover "low and tight".

Other things to consider when planting include: sun loving plants in the shade, shade plants in the sun, moisture plants in an area where there's no irrigation, drought-tolerant plants in a wet area and installing an

BEWARE !



A resident discovered they had a broken window in the front of their house and they first thought the break was caused by our land care people but upon closer inspection this scenario was highly unlikely.

It appeared the break was caused by someone leaning or bracing themselves against the window while trying to force the bottom half of the window open. The timing of this coincides with two other occurrences in the Cottages.

A month or so ago another resident reported about 2am someone trying to force open their sliding door on their lanai. In the same time period there was police activity (at least three cruisers) on Meadow Sweet Circle. The police were obviously "looking" for some thing or someone.

If you should see, or hear, anything out-of-the-ordinary, call the Sheriff's department immediately

WHAT's COOKING ?

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.

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Pan Schnitzel

1/2 lb thin sliced, pounded veal or pork tenderloin

2 tablespoons flour

1/4 teaspoon salt & pepper

1 egg beaten

1 tablespoon butter

1 tablespoon oil

lemon juice

1/2 cup Panko (Japanese bread crumbs) or regular crumbs

Take 1/2 pound of thin sliced veal or pork tenderloin (pork is cheaper and just as good). Coat with 2 tablespoons of flour and sprinkle on the salt and pepper. Dip in the beaten egg and then coat with the bread crumbs.

Saute in the butter and oil for 3 to 4 minutes and then "flip" and saute for another minute or two. Squeeze the lemon juice over all. Pan schnitzel is so easy and oh so good!

Yield: 2 servings

WHAT'S NOT COOKING

Recently one of the neighbors expressed a "disinterest" in the monthly What's Cooking article in OUR CIRCLE REPORT. Specifically, it was noted that a few people are on diets and they don't want to read anything to do with food. Consequently, the dieters want to do away with the article.



After some thought and for those on diets who don't want to read things food related a special "lite menu" column for dieters may now be found on page 8. Eat what's suggested and it's a guaranteed weight loss.

REMINDER

Many times after a regularly scheduled Board Meeting questions arise from residents **WHO WERE NOT** in attendance. Had these non-attendees been present their question would have been answered or they would have a better understanding as to why things are done (or not done) in our community.

All residents are urged to attend Board meetings!

FRUIT RATS

Fruit Rats (actually the their proper name is: Roof Rat) are making an appearance in our neighborhood. Roof Rats destroy animal and human food and take up residence in attics, soffits and hollow walls. They chew through wires (potentially starting fires), gnaw through plastic water pipes, make holes in walls and cause other structural damage.

They often go unnoticed in a neighborhood until dooryard citrus and other fruit start to ripen. Hollowed-out fruit is the most common evidence of Roof Rats. While the typical roof is black in color, scaly and hairless, here in Florida they also can be gray black or even brownish gray with "normal" rat type hair. They normally won't wander much further than 150 yards away from a source of food (fruit) or water.

Control of Roof Rats is not easy because they are excellent climbers and swimmers but having integrated pest management will greatly reduce their population. Because Florida has specific rules regarding the use of poison, trapping roof rats is the best method.

Not surprising, one of the best Roof Rat controls available in our neighborhood (and it's absolutely "free") is a snake. Corn snakes which are all over the Cottages love roof rats.

So residents are urged to be on the look-out for any signs of roof rats, if you suspect they are "around" get professional help to rid your property of these pests!

WHO GETS WHAT

All too often the question keeps coming up, "How do I pay my association dues?" Or, "Where do I mail my check?" Another one is, "Who do I contact with a Deed Restriction question or complaint?" Or maybe, "What about my lawn?"

How do you pay your dues? Quarterly for Unit #1 (The Cottages) and semi-annually for the Master Association. See the August/September issue of OCR for complete details.

Mail your Unit #1 dues to: Polaris Property Management
8437 Tuttle Ave #246, Sarasota, FL 34243

Mail your Master Association dues to: Lighthouse Management
16 Church Street, Osprey, FL 34229

Deed Restriction questions or violations: contact Lighthouse Management @ 966-6844 (ask for Kyanne)

Any lawn care problems put your question in writing and give it to a Board member or send it to:

unit1maintenance@yahoo.com

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

No activity news was reported or any future event dates & times scheduled.

Contact Jane Lettich (966-0856 or knjlet@verizon.net) for further information.



TREE PRUNING

This is a "late news" item related to the tree pruning.

The much needed pruning and trimming of oak trees (those not located on community property) is under way. This pruning will be beneficial to the trees and will serve us well should we not be so lucky this upcoming hurricane season.



BOARD of DIRECTORS & COMMITTEES

BOB AXSIOM - 1ST VICE PRES, Maintenance Back-Up

Tel. # 966-0408 ----- e-mail: axsiomjr@verizon.net

JOHN HUWILER - VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCIAL

Tel.# 966-0856-----e-mail: janjohnlp@aol.com

JANE LETTICH - SECRETARY, MAINTENANCE

Tel.#966-2425 ----- e-mail: knjlet@verizon.net

CAROLE MYLES - TREASURER, COMMUNICATIONS

Tel.# 918-9702 ----- e-mail: claylane@aol.com

BILL STRAW - PRESIDENT

Tel.# 312-2494 ----- e-mail: billstraw@yahoo.com

LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY MGT - (941)966-6844

Contact:: Kyanne Merrill kyannemerrill@mgmt.tv

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 !**

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

Board Activity and Comments

The past two board meetings have included many comments from neighbors, some more polite than others. We, as a board, take all of them seriously. We also have a responsibility under our bylaws and the laws of Florida to do certain things in a deliberate manner. Some things cannot be done as fast as we like because we need to get bids and, hard as it may be to believe, many businesses just do not respond. Florida law prohibits us from doing several things, one of which is allowing individuals create obligations for the association. This is why we cannot reimburse homeowners if they spend money on their lawns. Another is moving money from one reserve account to another. Many of us have spent a great deal of our own money improving our lawns but that is our choice and we cannot be paid back for that. Also, reserves set up for the pool, for example, cannot be used for tree work or to repair mailboxes.

Here is what *has* been done over the past few months or is happening at this time:

- Sod is being replaced or planted in many yards and areas around the community. More will go in over the next month as the rainy season approaches. The irrigation system is being maintained to help get that new sod established. If your yard has new sod, it is a good idea to water it a little by hand in the evening for the first two weeks.
- Middleton has started their treatment of lawns and shrubs and will be back for a follow up walk through and touch up in late May. It will take a few months for major differences to show, but we expect the chinch bug and other issues to be much lower this year as we act preventively instead of reacting after the damage is done. They are also treating the soil so it will hold water better and so the sod will be less affected by the oak leaf residue.
- Valley Crest has returned to the weekly cutting and will edge against sidewalks and curbs each week and along garden beds every other week. They will also check irrigation once a month and will trim shrubs and low trees every 6 to 8 weeks.
- Many owners have been cleaning the exterior of their homes, lanai cages and fences with an interest in keeping our neighborhood looking good. The results add to the beauty of the neighborhood and are much appreciated by all.
- The pool has been in much better shape chemically with the addition of an automatic chlorination system. As a public pool, there is no smoking allowed at the pool consistent with county regulations for beaches and pools. Even though no one outside the community is authorized to use the pool, it is considered public under Sarasota County regulations. The next step in improving its operation is to review the cost compared to the benefits of solar heating. We have received one proposal for solar and requested another but it didn't come in yet. We will address this at the next meeting.

The board will meet again in June and address several important issues including the canopy road application, alley repairs, Washingtonia palm trimming and removal, follow up on the entry gardens, solar for the pool and other items that may need attention. Look for an agenda in mid June.

We, as a board, welcome the input from neighbors in helping us do what is needed and what the community as a whole would like as priorities, but we sincerely request that comments be kept civil and polite and not become personal attacks on board members or neighbors. It takes a lot of time and work to make the board function, and not many people volunteer to help. This is much too nice a community to have it degraded by a lack of consideration of our neighbors.

Thank you from the Board.