

OUR CIRCLE REPORT

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NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:06am with four Board members present. Jane Lettich was absent. Minutes from the previous meeting of April 26, 2007 were approved.

Proposals for accounting services were read. There were three firms bidding, Miller (\$400), Polaris (\$260) and AMI (\$420). All bids were annual rates but their fees do not include postage and preparation fees. In the case of AMI, there would be an additional fee for the annual meeting. It was moved to accept the bid from Polaris contingent on a satisfactory pre-hiring interview with our Finance Committee. Second choice, should Polaris be rejected, would be Miller.

It was noted the Cottages has \$30,000 in reserve funds. In addition, barring any unforeseen events, \$4,000 more is projected for the reserve fund as a result of savings in management fees.

The condition of our sidewalks was discussed. The latest repairs completed by the County were/are unsatisfactory. The County will be contacted about repairing the sidewalks again.

The "Woodlands Word" contains information pertinent to architectural review, repainting, etc. The Board advises attention to the regulations and for owners/residents to ask questions when in doubt.

The Master Association (Big Rivendell) claims no responsibility for distribution of information regarding registered sexual predators who may reside in our neighborhood. It was recommended those wishing more information log onto the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department web site.

ValleyCrest is in its first phase. There will be hedge and shrub trimming in May/June.

Comments from the floor included:

1. Need contact number for Lighthouse provided in newsletter. It is now listed (see page #4).
2. Provide sign at entrance (like Rivendell does) showing the monthly meeting for time and place.
3. Add names of all of the Maintenance Committee Group.
4. Should the chairs at the Club House be replaced ? Several people have almost fallen when the legs collapsed.
5. Some people want the address of national web site for child predators. (See latest Woodland Word)
6. Lighthouse should notify the Board of lamppost lights out, not the home owner.

The date and time for the next Board Meeting is July 19th at 10:00am.

SUMMER MONTHS

ACTIVITIES REPORT

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

GROWING ON YOU



The word of the day is: DROUGHT ! The month of May has been the driest in years.

Our common grass areas are showing the signs of lack of sufficient water. While we are irrigated once a week, the hotter temps, sunshine, and lack of rain between weekly watering is not enough to sustain a lush, green lawn.

With luck, the rainy season will start in June. While the grass looks brown and dead in some areas, the rains will bring it back to life. Our shrubs, trees, and bushes should be able to make it until we get rain.

There are not any new plants, shrubs, or bushes to highlight this month.

Just a reminder. It goes without saying that during this drought time it is not a good time to plant any new plants unless you are dedicated to hand watering them everyday for at least a couple of weeks. But in the long run, it would be best to wait until Mother Nature starts her rains before planting anything.

If any shrubs or bushes in your yard look like they need water. Please, water them for a few days by hand.

FREE TICKETS !

Looking for a way to spend an evening or two, **absolutely free** ? The Cottages has a limited supply of tickets for the Sarasota Reds, a Class A minor league team owned by the Cincinnati Reds. Week night games start at 7pm and weekend games at 6pm. Games are played at Ed Smith Stadium, located at the corner of 12th Street & Tuttle Ave. There's plenty of easy, free parking available.



What major league "star of tomorrow" will you see playing at Ed Smith ? Who knows ? But it's guaranteed you'll see some. Right now, the Red Sox, White Sox, Cardinals, Dodgers, Mets, Marlins, Pirates & Cubs, to name a few teams, have "regulars" who played here in Sarasota within the past few years.

Got your interest about those **F-R-E-E** tickets ? No strings attached. No hidden charges. Just plain "free for the asking !" Contact Mac Segar **918-0343** or macsegar@comcast.net .

Oh, yes, the Reds have all sorts of "special promotions" too.

WHAT's COOKING ?

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Everybody has had 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 .

Thank you, June, for this recipe.

OLD-FASHIONED BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

1 cup all purpose flour	1/3 cup sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder	1 egg
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract	1/4 cup milk
2 tablespoons butter, melted	1/4 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup fresh or frozen blueberries	

In a small bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder & salt. In another bowl, whisk the egg, milk, butter & vanilla; stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in blueberries.

Fill greased or paper-lined muffin cups 3/4 full. Bake at 400 degrees for 18-22 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Serve warm Yield: 6 muffins

WHAT TO EXPECT

Now that ValleyCrest is back doing our lawn service work, here are a few things all residents should expect each time they are in The Cottages to do the weekly, Monday morning, mowing.

Upon completion of the mowing, ValleyCrest has been instructed to **blow all clippings away** from the houses. In other words, they should start the blowing operation at your front door, and move away from the house & mulch areas, towards the street.

Edging, grass touching cement, will be **done weekly** while the grass along mulched areas, flower/plant beds, will be done on an **"as needed"** bases. The intent here is to try to "re-claim" some of the areas where the edging from the past has expanded the original size of the mulched areas or flower beds.

Yard clippings, done by the resident, will not be picked up by ValleyCrest. The resident is asked to "curb it" for regular County pick-up on Thursdays. If, or when, ValleyCrest uses a larger truck/trailer, they may reconsider their present policy. However, all clippings done by ValleyCrest, either their lawn service or detail crews, **will be removed** by them.

All residents are urged to be another pair of eyes, and if you observe a ValleyCrest crew doing, or not doing, something which you feel needs to be addressed, **please notify the Maintenance Group immediately** at: unit1maintenance@yahoo.com

UPDATE

In the last issue of OUR CIRCLE REPORT, it was noted, several resident mailbox numbers need to be replaced as soon as possible.

The Maintenance Group obtained three bids to supply the new vinyl numbers. All quotes were for "sets of numbers". A set consists of three numbers, as an example, "591" is one "set".

Bids ranged from a high of \$25-\$35 per set with a discount for 100 or more sets with the company doing the installation. The accepted low bid was \$2.25 per set with a "do-it-yourself" installation.

The successful bidder was QuickSigns, Sarasota. To save money, we will do our own applying of the number sets. There are thirteen (13) identification numbers that need replacement ASAP, with others to follow.

On Saturday, May 19th, the process of replacing the much needed numbers was started.

If your mailbox number was not replaced, and you feel as though it should be, please contact the Maintenance Group at:

unit1maintenance@yahoo.com

and your box number will be added to the next group to be replaced.

VANDALISM !

Recently, substantial damage was done to our pool ! This wasn't just a random act as the damage was done by a person, or persons, who have a fair knowledge of how the pool filtration system works. They removed and/or damaged three water jets, dumped large amounts of dirt and debris in the water, damaged the underwater light, bent the ladder and obstructed the operation of the pool leading to the possibility of the pool being condemned by the County.

The cost to repair the pool will be over \$150 and, naturally, this money could well be spent in other areas.

While there are no "immediate suspects", we have received some valuable information that will be of "interest" to the authorities. In the mean time, please be vigilant and alert to strangers in our area.

Should you see anything "suspicious", do not confront the individual(s) but call the Sheriff's Department, immediately.

FEEDBACK REQUESTED

Have you heard the story about the little boy who had never, never said a word ? His parents took him to doctor, after doctor, after doctor, trying to find out just what was wrong with little Egbert. All the doctors & speech specialists couldn't find a thing wrong. Egbert was perfectly normal in every way except he had never uttered a sound.

One morning while he was eating his breakfast, Egbert pushed his oatmeal towards the center of the table, looked at his mother and said, "This oatmeal is cold !". Mama burst into tears, Papa shouted with glee and both hugged Egbert ! "You can speak, you can speak", they said. "Why have you never spoken before, Egbert ?". The little boy looked at them both and calmly said, "Up till now everything has been perfect."

The moral here is, after three issues, there's been no feedback regarding the content of OUR CIRCLE REPORT, so it must be assumed, "up till now everything has been perfect".

Tell us what you like, or for that matter, what you don't like about the newsletter. Is there something you feel should be included, changed ? Has anyone tried one of the recipes ? Was it as good as advertised ? We want your thoughts ! After all, it is a neighborhood publication intended for the entire neighborhood.

E-mail your comments to: **cottagenews84@yahoo.com** or give any hand written comments to: Carole Myles, 575 MSC.

RED SHEET SPECIAL

You know how this works ! You're walking the isles at K-Mart and suddenly the voice from the back room says, "Attention K-Mart shoppers, today's blue light special....." Anyhow, the Cottages will be having their, "red sheet special".

From time-to-time there may be a need to get important information to all residents between issues of OUR CIRCLE REPORT. To accomplish this it's planned to post a vivid, red sheet in the front, and rear, windows at the Club House.

What might the "important" news be ? It might be something financial, or landscape related. It might have to do with something a vendor may have planned. In other words, the information could be just about most anything.

It's the intent of the Board to keep the entire neighborhood as up-to-date and informed as possible. "When we know it, we want you to know it too".

IRRIGATION AID

One of the problems encountered while checking irrigation timer boxes is, there's no electricity to the unit. In some cases, the line to the timer is "hot" which means the actual timer itself has gone bad and needs replacement.

However, more times than not, there is no electrical current going from the source of electricity to the timer. Most of the time it's found the supplier of electrical power, your GFI switch, has been "tripped" or shutoff. Restoring power to your irrigation timer is just as simple as resetting of the red button on the GFI. The GFI switch (there may be two or three in your house) you need to reset usually will be found in your garage fairly close to the door exiting from your kitchen area.

One problem when your GFI shuts off is, you most likely won't even know it unless you have something plugged into the GFI receptacle.

Here's the suggestion. Purchase a small night light that has an "on-off" switch. Plug it into the GFI receptacle, leave the light in the "on" position and, walla, problem solved. Well, almost! From time-to-time observe the light, if it's "out", there's a problem. Push the red reset button, light goes on, power restored.

Don't worry about paying a lot for the power used for the night light. You'd have to burn a light for the next 100 years to use up \$5.00 worth of juice.

If the power to the irrigation timer has been interrupted for any length of time, a member of the Maintenance Group will see your yard being irrigated at an "off" time and reset the timer controls.

GOT CAUGHT !

Our luck ran out! Finally, the sharp eyed readers found the errors in the May issue of OUR CIRCLE REPORT. The first to "report" the "errors" was Terry Sweeney, and for his proof reading skills, Terry was awarded a gift certificate for (drum roll please), a dozen Dunkin Donuts. If you don't know Terry, he'll be easy to spot after eating those donuts. He's the guy with the jelly stains on the front of his t-shirt.

The "challenge" is still on the table. Find the error, or errors, and you can be eligible for a "prize". Contact Carole Myles or send your "findings" to:

cottagenews84@yahoo.com

TIRE TRACKS

In our last issue, we indicated how important good working windshield wipers are. Assuming all the neighbors have had theirs checked, we'll move along to a second safety item: tires. With the advent of the rains looming, good tires are a necessity.

Look at your tires. Nice even tread wear? Good! No "cups" or "bumps"? Great! Sidewalls, show no signs of cracks? Looks like we've passed the "tire test"?



But wait, let's take a good look at that tread wear again. Just how much tread do you have left?

A lot, some or so-so? Do you know when the depth of the tread is "down" to 2/32 of an inch, it's time for new tires?

So please, for safety sake, get those tread depths checked.



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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.*