

OUR CIRCLE REPORT

cottagenews84@yahoo.com

www.thecottagesofrivendell.com

JULY 2007

VOL.1 NO. 5

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RIVENDELL COMMUNITY **ASSOCIATION DUES**

Date due - **July 1, 2007**

Master Association - **\$265.00**

Payable to : Rivendell Community Association

Mail to : **Rivendell Community Association**

c/o Lighthouse Management

16 Church Street

Osprey, FL 34229

If you have any questions, Lighthouse can be reached at:
(941) 966-6844

Every so often questions arise as to, "why do residents of Unit #1 have to pay dues to the Master Association?". Pure, and simple, it's for the **maintaining of the common areas** we all share as part of Big Rivendell. Just the common areas, not a dime goes for "their" pool. We also pay our equal share to Lighthouse Management for services such as, but not limited to, violation letters, collection of dues, inspections, and checking on West Bay landcare.

PALM TREE TRIMMING

FINALLY! Well, almost finally. A date has been set for our palm trees trimmed. In the latter part of July and the first part of August, ValleyCrest will be trimming all our palm trees.



If you wish to get a preview of what to expect our palms will look like after their "trim", look at the palms in the yard at 540 MSC. Those palms are the "poster-palms" for our neighborhood.

In addition to trimming palm trees, ValleyCrest may remove some of the palms that are a threat to cause damage during a storm.

NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD

There has been no meeting of the Board of Directors since the last publication of OUR CIRCLE REPORT. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, July 19th, at 10:00am in the Club House.

Following a meeting between our Finance Committee and Polaris Property Management, a Retainer Agreement was signed for **Polaris to provide bookkeeping for Unit #1**. Included in the duties to be performed by Polaris will be collecting Unit #1 dues and paying our monthly bills.

Other vendors providing services to The Cottages and "approved by the Board include:

Southeast Irrigation - Timer boxes, complex maintenance.
ACE Pump & Supply - Irrigation parts and supplies
QuickSigns - Mailbox numbers

UNIT #1 ASSOCIATION DUES

Date due - **July 1, 2007**

Rivendell Homeowners - **\$436.61**

Payable to : **Rivendell Unit 1 Neighborhood Association**

Method of Payment : Each owner should have received a **payment book**. Payments can go to the bank or Polaris.

If your payments are currently direct/auto deduction from a savings or checking account, you have NO CHANGES!
Your payment will be made for you by the bank.

Mail to : **Rivendell Unit 1 Neighborhood Association**

c/o Polaris Property Management

8437 Tuttle Ave #246

Sarasota, FL 34243

If you have any questions, Polaris can be reached at:
(941) 321-2370

All homeowners of The Cottages are urged to remit their dues as soon as possible. Unlike the Master Association, there is a **late charge fee for all payments not made within ten (10) days of the initial due date**.

GROWING ON YOU



Our Garden Editor is on vacation this month. The "Growing On You" column will resume with the next issue.

A reminder, now's the time to think about the removal of plants & shrubs that have "outgrown" themselves. Notice the new landscaping at 555 MSC, "thinning" of ground cover at 500 MSC and 533 MSC. Plus, at 504 MSC, the removal of an "out-of-control" plumbago. These changes not only enhanced the appearance of the properties involved, but the entire neighborhood.

DONUT DELIGHT



For locating all the errors in the last issue of OUR CIRCLE REPORT, a sharpe-eyed reader was awarded a dozen donuts from Dunkin Donuts. He asked we not use his name becuase he said, he's "on a diet!"

Surprising, those who responed to the "call for errors", found the word "eligible" spelled wrong (it's correct now) but all, with the exception of our winner, missed the plural for the word "error".

So, break out the dictionary and let us know how we did this month. Send your findings to : cottagenews84@yahoo.com

PLEASE, DON'T FORGET



This is a friendly reminder for all the residents, and their guests, who use the pool, please pick up as you leave and return the chairs to their original place.

One of the first places a potential purchaser of a home in The Cottages goes,

is to the pool area. When one of your neighbors has a guest, they often go for a walk through the neighborhood and eventually will stop by the pool area. In short, the Club House and pool area speak volumes about The Cottages.

The pool itself is "serviced" twice per week by a pool company. The restrooms are maintained by a cleaning person. The plants and shrubs are taken care of by ValleyCrest, but the deck area is the responsibility of no one. No one that is, except all people who frequent the pool.

Please, take the time, and with a wee bit of effort, return chairs to their normal place and lower the umbrella after you use it (the life guard never came back from "break" in 1997). Also, if you brought a snack/beverage with you, take the left-overs home 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



PARMESAN RICE PILAF

1 Small Onion, chopped	1 cup water
2 tablespoons plus 1 1/2 teaspoons butter	
1 cup uncooked instant rice	
1 teaspoon garlic powder	1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese	
1 teaspoon beef bouillon granules	

In a small saucepan, saute onion in butter until tender. Stir in the rice, water, bouillon, garlic powder & pepper; bring to boil.

Remove from the heat; cover & let stand for 5 minutes. Stir in the grated Parmesan cheese. Garnish with shaved Parmesan cheese if desired.

Yield: 2 Servings

A WORD OF CAUTION

The heat and humidity of summer is once again upon us. We humans have all kinds of ways we like to "cool off". More than likely, ask a hundred people what they do to cool off, and you'll get a hundred different answers.. Well, maybe not a hundred, but you get the idea.

Did you ever wonder what the "critters" in our neighborhood do to avoid the blazing sun, or torrential rain? They look for a nice, out-of-sight, some times a humid spot. Where do they find this Critter Holiday Inn? In a deep, dark corner of your garage!

Over the years when residents leave the garage door "cracked" for ventilation all sorts and sizes, of "creepy crawlers" have been observed checking into neighborhood garages. The fact most residents keep their waste trash inside the garage, makes for an even better reason for Critter Chuck to enter: a tasty buffet.

Now, since there's still room at the inn and the garage door is open, the bigger guys like the raccoons, armadillos, and yes, snakes, like to check-in late, after dark. They are sniffing out the guys who checked in earlier. So far the 'gators spend their time in the pond. But who knows, they might be looking for the raccoon, who's looking for the snake, who's looking for the gecko, who's looking for the Palmetto bug ?

Avoid critter problems. keep your garage door closed !

COTTAGES WEB SITE

A complete and very easy-to-manuver web site is maintained for the use of all Cottage residents. If you want to know something, it's probably already on our web site.



First, we've got to get to our web site and the easiest way is to do the following:

1. **Go to Google**
2. **Enter - LR Favorites**, click search
3. The first "hit" will be - LR Favorites, **click LR Favorites**

A page will come up from Larry Ruckert's Favorite Links. On the left side of the screen will be a list of 28 possible links to "click" on. You could spend the next ten years just perusing all the options presented here but what you're looking for is the very bottom one, **click on The Cottages of Rivendell**. It's high-lighted in red.

You've finally arrived at our web site, **www.thecottagesofrivendell.com**. It's suggested, at this time to add this "page" to your favorites, then the next time you won't have to go through all that Google stuff. **Some viewing areas** are password protected. A resident may obtain the password by e-mailing your request to: **cottagenews84@yahoo.com**.

Of particular interest might be the link, "Local Information". About the only thing not covered here is our mayor's hat size! And, probably that will be listed next week. Any relative newcomer to our neighborhood will find all sorts of good information. For the "old timers", there's a lot of refresher data too.

A printable copy of our deed restrictions is available but have plenty of paper, and a good ink cartridge, because you'll need

There's Sarasota County phone information, previous copies of OUR CIRCLE REPORT, parking information and even a computer tour.

Got friends and/or relatives coming? Need a hint for a good restaurant or local attraction? It's all here in our Cottage web site.

One more thing, want to see what's going on by the Eiffel tower, or at Sloppy Joe's in Key West? Go back to the Reference Desk in LR favorites for live web cams to visit these places, and many more.

HELP WANTED

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During the Memorial Day Holiday it was intended to display the two American flags from the porch of the Club House. However both flags were not in their proper storage spot in the Club House.

Do you know where these flags might be? Both flags were "donated" to Unit #1 and it was intended they be displayed for a National Holidays, and any other occasion where the showing of our flag is appropriate.

It is assumed the flags were removed from the storage area to be kept in a more secure, and cleaner, place. But so far, no one seems to remember just where that "secure" place is.

With the Independence Holiday here, the displaying of our flag, especially in these times, is almost mandatory.

If you have the flags, for safe keeping, please return them to the Club House immediately so they may be displayed for the 4th of July.

Thank you for your cooperation.

WHY WRITE IT ?

All too often a resident or homeowner in The Cottages will have some type of "request" for the Board or Maintenance Group. They will stop you as you're near their house, or roll down the window of their car as you pass.

The conversations starts something like this, "Say, the next time the lawn guys are here, tell them to". Ten minutes, and 500 words later, they've given their "simple" request. To further muddy-the-waters, add in two or three more neighbors with verbal requests on the same, or quite possibly a different, subject! It could be 5 or 6 days before these "verbal requests" are delivered. Get the idea? This creates a chance for all kinds of errors.

Solution? Easy! Just **put any, and all, requests in writing!**

If you have access to e-mail send your request to **unit1maintenance@yahoo.com**. If you don't access to e-mail, write your request and give it to a board member or to a maintenance person. Either way, write it! Then there will be a paper trail for accuracy and, if needed, a follow-up.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

IRRIGATION NEWS

Slowly, but surely, progress is being made getting the irrigation system for The Cottages under control. It's imperative all the systems operate on "schedule". This will help eliminate the overworking of the master pump.

Water coverage for the yards is, for the most part, good. However, there are several yards where the big problem remains: plant & shrub overgrowth. Sprinkler heads are being "blocked" by the overgrowth and can not operate effectively. In due time, ValleyCrest will be doing a very "hard" detail cut and this should eliminate, or reduce, this blocking problem.

Over the past couple of months, approximately 20 or so residents have had their old irrigation timer boxes replaced. There are still a few more boxes (which have been identified to each resident) that should be replaced.

A final note. Now that the rainy season is upon us, there may be times when our irrigation system will be turned "off". There's a County regulation which states, "if rainfall equals, or exceeds one (1) inch in a 24 hour period, there should be no irrigation for seven (7) days". Following the County guidelines, it's the responsibility of the Master Association to regulate the operation of the irrigation pump.

If you observe any irrigation problems, please report them ASAP to: unit1maintenance@yahoo.com

RAIN, RAIN !

Has anyone noticed the affect the rains have had on our neighborhood? The grass is looking like grass, and not Farmer Brown's hayfield. There are still several areas which need "help", but help is coming. ValleyCrest will be doing another "walk-through" to identify those areas that haven't responded to Mother Nature.

In the meantime, keep looking for our daily "showers". We need all the rain we can get to build up the water supply in the ponds.

Have a safe and enjoyable
July 4th Holiday !



ENGINE FAILURE

Do you know what's the major cause of engine failures in automobiles? More importantly, do you know how to help prevent an engine failure in your car?



Did you say, "Change the oil, faithfully every 3,000 miles?" That's right, a lube, oil & filter, when done on a regular schedule will help eliminate the most common cause of engine failure.

Old, used and dirty oil in an engine builds up "sludge" and this sludge is the major cause of engine failures. You might say, sludge is to your engine what cholesterol is to your heart!

To extend the life of your car, and to reduce pollution, have your car serviced every 3,000 miles. You won't regret it.



BOARD of DIRECTORS & COMMITTEES

BOB AXSIOM - 1ST VICE PRESIDENT, MAINTENANCE

Tel. # 966-0408 ----- e-mail: axsiomjr22@msn.com

Maintenance Committee - J.Martin, J.Curtin, F.Pafumi, J.Lettich

JOHN HUWILER - VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCIAL

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Financial Committee - M.Arendt, S.Bradich, M.Georgopolis

JANE LETTICH - SECRETARY, ACTIVITIES

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CAROLE MYLES - TREASURER, COMMUNICATIONS

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

Committee members - E.Straw

BILL STRAW - PRESIDENT (Maintenance Back-Up)

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

LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY MGT - (941)966-6844

Contacts: Todd Gates toddgates@mgmt.tv or Kyanne Merrill

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.*