

# OUR CIRCLE REPORT

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www.thecottagesofrivendell.com

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2007**

**VOL.1 NO. 6**

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## **ASSOCIATION DUES PAID ?**

Have all owners paid their two (2) association dues? The **Master Association dues (\$265.00)** and the **Unit #1 Neighborhood Association dues (\$436.61)** were both due on **July 1st**.

Other than the owners having auto payment through the bank, everyone else should have received a statement to pay their dues. If not, contact the Board.

Any owner not paying their dues on time may face a late fee.

**Master Association** dues should be made payable to:

**Rivendell Community Association**

and mailed to: **Lighthouse Management**

**16 Church Street**

**Osprey, FL 34229**

**Unit #1** dues should be made payable to:

**Rivendell Unit #1 Neighborhood Association**

and mailed to: **Polaris Property Management**

**8437 Tuttle Ave #246**

**Sarasota, FL 34243**

## **NO DUES PAYMENT BOOK**

There will be **no Rivendell Unit #1 Neighborhood Association payment books**, or coupon book, call them what you like, for the next payment, October 1, 2007. You will receive a "statement" instead.

The bank handling our association account only issue payment books that contain a minimum of four (4) yearly payments. Since there's only one (1) payment left in 2007, **the bank will not issue a book!**

In, or about, the first of December, 2007, owners should receive their payment books, containing four (4) coupons, indicating the amount due each quarter in 2008.

## **NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:02am with three Board members present. Fourteen homeowners attended the meeting.

Andy Cushman, an arborist with ValleyCrest, explained oak tree trimming. After much discussion, about both oak trees and the palm trees, it was agreed, ValleyCrest will begin the trimming process three weeks from the time they receive the "official" order. Allocated price for this tree work is \$4,500.

Under new business, items included were:

- a) Pool system needs upgrading including a system to meter chlorination. Cost: \$900. Motion: approved.
- b) White-ant problem and a proposal from Hoskins Pest Control was reviewed. No action taken, tabled for further discussion. No Unit #1 contract is planned as these are individual property homeowner problems comparable to those with termites or pipe leaks.
- c) Copies of the 2007 year-to-date financials were passed out and questions regarding specific line items were discussed.
- d) Questions about shrub replacement, tree removal(s) and general trimming were addressed.
- e) It was noted the pool area and Club House have been pressure washed but there is still wood repair and painting required.
- f) Over all Club House maintenance needs to be monitored.
- g) Pool furniture needs to be scrubbed monthly by volunteers.
- h) Several motorists have been observed **disregarding the "FULL" STOP SIGNS** at the circle entrance/exit.
- i) Farm Bureau will no longer insure cages.

Next Directors Meeting is scheduled for September 13, 7:00pm

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OCTOBER 1, 2008.**

## GROWING ON YOU



Mother Nature seems to have forgotten she's supposed to be providing us with rain this time of year. Our rainfall, year-to-date, is far below normal. Thank goodness for our weekly irrigation for our plant survival.

Plants showing color now are the Alameda, Coral Honeysuckle, Plumbago and Ixora. The Alameda, a bright yellow color, may be seen on the fences at 518 and 574 MSC. The Coral Honeysuckle, and orange tubular flower, grows along the fence at 508 MSC. Both of these plants are Florida Native and are drought tolerant. Throughout the Cottages, you can see the colorful blue/purple flowers of the Plumbago and the bright orange flowers on the Ixoras. They seem to do very well in drought conditions too

Our trees, shrubs, and bushes seem to be surviving our drought with the once a week irrigation. Annuals and potted plants do need watering often. Until it looks pretty certain we are going to get our rainy season, this is not a good time to plant unless you will be dedicated to watering, by hand, every day until the plant, or grass, is well established.

## STREET LIGHT POLICY



Recently the Maintenance Group has received an inquiry, or two, regarding the operation of our street lights. Actually, to be more specific, the non-operation of some of the street lights.

In most cases, when a light goes "dark", the solution is very simple: change the bulb! The change is usually done within a day, or two, of notification. However, other times the "fix" isn't quite as easy, and it requires a qualified electrician.

As a cost effective move, the hiring of an electrician is done when there are a half-dozen, or so, lights needing professional attention.

A light that's gone dark but the bulb is "good", indicates there is a fuse problem. At times a string of two or three lights may go dark. This definitely is a fuse as some lights are "wired" together. Should a light burn 24/7 the problem is the sensor switch which has gone bad. In any case, should you see a "problem" light, please notify the Maintenance Group at:

[unit1maintenance@yahoo.com](mailto:unit1maintenance@yahoo.com)

## WHAT'S COOKING ?

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Everybody has had a most treasured 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](mailto:cottagenews84@yahoo.com)



### Steaks w/Shallot Sauce

**2/3 cup** sliced shallots or green onions

**2 tablespoons** butter, divided

**1 tablespoon** red wine vinegar

**2 teaspoons** Worcestershire sauce

**2 beef tenderloin steaks** (6 ounces each)

**1/4 cup** beef broth

**1/2 teaspoon** pepper

**1/2 teaspoon** olive oil

In a small skillet, saute shallots in 1 tablespoon butter until tender. Add broth; bring to boil. Reduce heat; simmer until liquid is reduced to about 1 tablespoon. Stir in vinegar and Worcestershire sauce; cook 1 minute longer. Remove from heat. Stir in 1-1/2 teaspoons butter. Cover and keep warm.

Sprinkle steaks with pepper. In a large skillet, cook steaks in oil and remaining butter until meat reaches desired doneness (for medium-rare, a meat thermometer should indicate 145 degrees; medium 160; well-done, 170. Serve with shallot sauce.

**Yield: 2 servings**

## PESTICIDE PROBLEM

Many of the residents have pointed out there appears to be a major problem with insects, bugs, and especially ants in their yards and common areas. There's no "appears" to it: there is a problem! With the rainy season here, it may get worse.

The problem, and its solution, has been addressed. Here are the facts as they are known.

The bad news is that due to more strict environmental restrictions as to what type of chemicals can be applied to the general area, and by whom, ValleyCrest is limited as to exactly what they can apply in their pesticide applications. They, ValleyCrest, are a landcare company first that can also apply certain pesticides.

The good news is: a fully licensed pest company may apply more efficient, stronger chemicals at your house, but that is a homeowner problem.

In the mean time, keep that can of bug and ant spray handy!



Recently you may have seen some people walking through our neighborhood, clip boards in hand and measuring sticks at their side. It was act one of the pending arrival for the ability to have Verizon cable service. In the days to come the in-ground cable installers will appear, act two.

Eventually, act three will be the opportunity to purchase the services of either Comcast or Verizon.

**Before you make your choice, be careful!**



You will, or may already have, receive all sorts of "information" from both companies. Some of their offers will look "good" but read the fine print! Our current cable provider, Comcast, may get you committed to a multi-year, hard to break deal. The new guy on the block, Verizon, may offer a bargain rate for a limited time but with a clause for a mandatory service extension at a higher rate. Either way, read, review, and above all, know what you're agreeing to. You should keep your current wiring!

The magazine, PC World, has an interesting article about all the cable providers, not just Comcast and Verizon. Services were ranked by total number of negative and positive ratings from a survey of 6,463 PC World readers.

If you'd like to see the results of the PC World's survey, and don't have access to the magazine, please send a request to: [cottagenews84@yahoo.com](mailto:cottagenews84@yahoo.com).

Is it going to be Comcast or Verizon? The envelope, please!

## **TRASH PICK-UP**

It seems as if every time there's a holiday, some residents continue to place their trash curbside for pick-up on our normal scheduled time on Thursday morning.



In most cases, when local and federal offices are closed for a holiday, our trash pick-up service will be effected too,

Remember, when the holiday falls on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, **our pick-up is on Friday**, not Thursday. The Sarasota paper generally will print a trash pick-up schedule the day before the holiday.

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## **PUZZLER**

It's nice to know OUR CIRCLE REPORT keeps one step ahead of the readers. The mistakes must be too carefully hidden as we had no donut winners last month. The mistakes are there!

This month, as Maxwell Smart use to say, "we'll try the old hidden word trick".

A few weeks ago while waiting in an airport and doing what everyone seems to do at airports, nothing, a sign caught our eye, "ARRIVALS - DEPARTURES".

Using just the word **DEPARTURES**, remove one letter, and using **all the remaining letters** (but in a different order), make another entirely different word.

Before you give up, here's a hint. The word you're looking for has been used in another article in this months OUR CIRCLE REPORT. Good luck!

## **2008 BUDGET**

We're just past the half-way point for the year 2007 and already plans are under way for 2008, budget plans that is:

The Budget Group will be meeting during the next few weeks to iron out the details for Unit #1's operating expenses. The Budget Group is made up of volunteers who form the Budget Committee and representatives from our Board of Directors.

As an owner/resident of Unit #1, you too have an opportunity to input your ideas as to what item, or items, might be included in the 2008 budget.

If you have a request for consideration for next year's budget, you may send that request to [cottagenews84@yahoo.com](mailto:cottagenews84@yahoo.com). If you prefer, you may hand write it and give it to any member of the Board.

It would be appreciated if any, and all, budget items be in the hands of the Budget Group by September 30th.

## **THANK YOU !**

The entire neighborhood would like to thank the anonymous donor of the flags for our Club House. It is greatly appreciated. The flag was displayed during the July 4th Holiday.



## WHERE'S SECOND ?

Just about everyone who lives in the State of Florida knows, for sure, this one thing: it sure is a "flat" state! But how many people know just how "flat", flat is?



At Lakewood Park in Paxton, FL, raising to the unbelievable height of 345 feet above sea level, stands Britton Hill. What makes Florida's highest point even more unique? It's the lowest "high point" in the United States. In other words, every other state can boast a higher hill than Britton Hill. Even little old Delaware, last in just about every thing else, has a higher hill than Florida.

By the way, Paxton is located in the panhandle, along the Alabama state line, just north east of Clearview, FL.

But did you know this? Florida's second highest point is located only a couple of miles from our neighborhood. It's that mound of dirt next to US 41 south where the Rt 681 overpass is.

## MAILING ADDRESS CORRECT ?

All lot owners in Unit #1 are reminded to be sure their official "billing and related association information" address is correct.

There were approximately 20 dues statements returned to sender for insufficient, or incorrect, address. If you were one of these "returns", please provide either Polaris Accounting or your Board with the updated, corrected address.

## SECURITY ?

Recently a few of our residents were concerned about a vehicle going through our neighborhood. They asked if this vehicle was any type of "patrol". When the occupant exited the car, entered the pool area, and then, when confronted, the occupant didn't identify themselves, their "concern" reached its peak!



First, there is no "organized" security patrol in our neighborhood but there is "security". To actually publicize what is being done would then, obviously, eliminate our best weapon, the element of surprise, and who's going what.

you see, or hear, anything which doesn't appear right, don't hesitate to call the Sheriff's Department immediately. Under no circumstances should you confront any "unknown" person, who may be acting strange, or you think is a threat to our community.

## HEADLIGHTS

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Let's see, just when do I need to use my headlights? Simple answer, when it's dark! That's fine, but just when is it "dark"? Most states define "dark" as the hours between dusk (sunset) and dawn (sunrise).



But there's another time when it's the law, your lights must be on: during a rain storm! You'd be surprised how many motorists fail to turn on their lights.

You say your car is equipped in such a way that your headlights are on when the car is in motion, so you don't have to do a thing when it rains. May be, and then again may be not. Don't forget those tail lights! In most cases they are not "on" when your automatic headlights are. So next time it's raining, make sure all your lights are operating.



### **BOARD of DIRECTORS & COMMITTEES**

**BOB AXSIOM - 1ST VICE PRESIDENT, MAINTENANCE**

Tel. # 966-0408 ----- e-mail: [axsiomjr22@msn.com](mailto:axsiomjr22@msn.com)

Maintenance Committee - J.Martin, F.Pafumi

**JOHN HUWILER - VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCIAL**

Tel.# 966-0856-----e-mail: [janjohnlp@aol.com](mailto:janjohnlp@aol.com)

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

**JANE LETTICH - SECRETARY, ACTIVITIES**

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Committee members - E.Straw

**BILL STRAW - PRESIDENT (Maintenance Back-Up)**

Tel.#966-0403 ----- e-mail: [billstraw@yahoo.com](mailto:billstraw@yahoo.com)

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**LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY MGT - (941)966-6844**

Contacts: Todd Gates [toddgates@mgmt.tv](mailto:toddgates@mgmt.tv) or Kyanne Merrill

### CONTACTING US VIA E-MAIL

Problems with Maintenance, Street Lights or Irrigation

- [unit1maintenance@yahoo.com](mailto:unit1maintenance@yahoo.com)

News Items or Comments For OUR CIRCLE REPORT

[cottagenews84@yahoo.com](mailto: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.*