

OUR CIRCLE REPORT

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LAWNCARE REPORT

In accordance with our contract with ValleyCrest, where needed, the lawns have received treatments to "eliminate" the chinch bugs. More applications will follow. The normal lawn fertilization is being done "on schedule".

Due to more stringent regulations pertaining to the application of lawn chemicals, ValleyCrest as a lawncare company, is not licensed or authorized to apply them the way they did. It may be necessary for Unit #1 to hire a licensed pesticide company to do particular lawn care work. This option is being investigated by the Board.

Over the next several weeks ValleyCrest plans to do a detailed survey of the entire neighborhood ending with a recommendation to our Board for the removal, replacement and/or reshaping of the existing plantings in our neighborhood.

Some of the high maintenance Washingtonian palms may be removed and some may be replaced with other types of palms or trees.

MULCHING NEWS

Hopefully, some time prior to the upcoming Holidays, the neighborhood will get its annual mulching. The Unit #1 Association purchases the mulch and ValleyCrest will apply it at "no charge". Residents have the option, if they so choose, to spread their own mulch or let ValleyCrest to it.

If you want to do the work yourself, ValleyCrest will leave approximately twenty (20) unopened bags of mulch at the edge of your driveway.

To those residents taking the "do-it-yourself" approach, please notify the Maintenance group of your intentions ASAP at unit1maintenance@yahoo.com.

Have a very enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday !

NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD

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

The meeting was held at the Club House on Thursday, October 18th. All five (5) Board members were present. Also attending the meeting were fourteen (14) homeowners.

Following a lengthy discussion regarding property owners non-compliance with Unit #1's Covenants and Restrictions, as they pertain to exterior home improvements, the Board agreed to instruct Lighthouse Property Management to issue, in writing, formal complaints to all violators stating specific violations. Failure by a property owner to comply could result in a fine and mandatory removal of the additions.

Committee reports were received. For detailed information, please read the accompanying articles regarding lawncare, mulch and Club House repair.

The Finance Committee indicated a summary page and balance sheet will be added quarterly as a supplement to OUR CIRCLE REPORT.

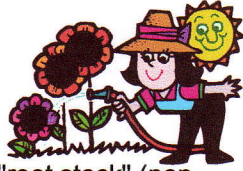
Under new business rental procedures and standards were discussed. When a home is sold, the seller should provide a set of deed restrictions to the buyer. A new cleaning company has been hired for the Club House and pool area.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, November 15th at 7:00pm in the Club House.



GROWING ON YOU

As some of you may have noticed, the three citrus trees previously growing in the inner circle at Alex Park, have been removed. Two of the trees had turned to "root stock" (non-fruit producing) and the third had already died. In short, all three trees had outlived their usefulness.



The reason the citrus tree removals is being pointed out is, we have many, many plants, shrubs, bushes, etc., in our neighborhood that need to be removed completely, replaced or reduced in size to make way for new growth.

As pointed out in a previous issue of OUR CIRCLE REPORT a good example of "out with the old and in with the new", is at 555 MSC. Because of the Florida twelve month growing season, nothing will last forever. but new plantings will fill in quickly

If you have an original planting you'd like removed or replaced, please notify the Maintenance Group at unit1maintenance@yahoo.com.

CLUB HOUSE REPAIRS

The repairs to the Club House are proceeding and the completion date is actually ahead of schedule. The main repair task was the replacement of the wood exterior where the weather had caused rotting. In some cases, where applicable, the wood was replaced with an exterior cellular vinyl called "Never Rot".

ALIVE AND WELL ?

Too many times, especially after the ValleyCrest detail crew has done the trimming in the Cottages, residents inquire about a tree or bush they think is dying. According to the resident, a tree or bush that until it was cut back was "alive and well".

You can do a very simple test yourself to determine if, in fact, the tree or bush is dead or dying. Take a pocket knife and about a half-inch or so from the end, peel back a piece of the bark. If it has a light greenish hue to it, the tree or bush is alive and well! If it is a tone of brown (the darkness varies with the type of planting) that part is dead. To see how "dead" the tree or bush is, keep going further along the branch towards the base and see where it starts to turn green. If no green, its removal time.

WHAT'S COOKING ?

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With the Holidays coming, here's a recipe for the "sweet tooth". If you have a favorite, please send it along to:

cottagenews84@yahoo.com.



Chocolate Macadamia Macaroons

1/2 cup finely chopped macadamia nuts

2 cups flaked coconut

3 tablespoons baking cocoa

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon light corn syrup

4 squares (1 ounce each) semisweet chocolate

1/3 cup sugar

2 egg whites, beaten

pinch of salt

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

In a large bowl, combine the coconut, macadamia nuts, sugar, cocoa, flour and salt. Add the egg whites, corn syrup and vanilla: mix well.

Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto greased baking sheets. Bake at 325 degrees for 15-20 minutes or until set and dry to the touch. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

In a small microwave-safe bowl, melt the chocolate: stir until smooth. Dip the bottom of each cookie in chocolate. Place on waxed paper: let stand until set. **Yield: 1-1/2 dozen**

NEW CLEANING COMPANY

A new company has been hired to clean the Club House and restroom areas. And get this, the new company, Wee Kleen will provide more services than the previous group and at a lower monthly cost! Cost savings: \$600 annually.

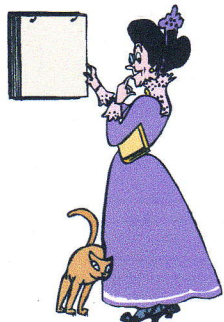
Wee Kleen's signed contract stipulates they will: clean/disinfect restrooms, dust/wipe down surfaces, wash & arrange pool furniture and sweep pool deck. Also, they will vacuum floors, dust, remove cobwebs and wash windows eight times a year. Plus, Wee Kleen will provide all paper products and use their own cleaning supplies.

A HEADS UP !



It appears law enforcement has increased their patrols in the 35 MPH construction zone on US41 through Laurel, Nokomis and Venice. You might say, "they're doing their Holiday stopping" early this year." Tell your visitors too! Those out-of-state plates are especially attractive this time of year!

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



The summer season is drawing to a close and that means two things. First, our neighbors who go "north" will be returning. Secondly, it's time to mark your social calendar for the upcoming season. All activities are held in the Club House unless otherwise noted.

November 11 - Welcome Brunch 11am - 1pm
 December 9 - Christmas Party, Ospery Inn
 January 19 - Wine Tasting
 February 9 - Valentine Bingo
 March 15 - St. Patrick's Day Dinner

For the months of April and May the exact date and activity will be announced later.

The Sunday morning coffee will be resuming. Your Activities Committee is looking for volunteers to host the coffee hour. If you are interested, please contact Jane Lettich (966-0856 or knjlet@comcast.net) for further information.

CLUB HOUSE USE

As a resident of The Cottages did you remember, and for our newer residents, do you know, you can reserve the Club House for your own personal use? In the past residents have used the facilities for among other things birthday parties, anniversaries, office get togethers, and yes, even a twilight wedding!

If you'd like to use the Club House, please contact Ed Kearns, 496 Meadow Sweet Circle, for all the details and a confirmed reservation date.

WELCOME NEIGHBOR

When a newcomer moves into The Cottages they may expect a visit from our new Welcoming Committee. This group will make sure all new residents, owners or renters, will have up-to-date directories, schedules, coupons and other basic welcoming information.



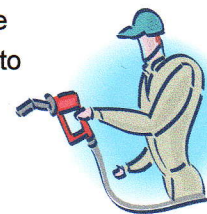
Presently the "welcomers" are Linda O'Neill, Helene Ellis and Margery Arendt.

**** LATE BULLETIN ****

The winter lawn care schedule is now every other week.

MORE MPG

It seems as if everyday the price of gasoline goes up again! It's especially true just prior to any holiday or "long weekend". There's not much we can do about the price of fuel but there is a couple of things we can do to get more miles per gallon.



One, anticipate a stop and ease off the accelerator rather than charge up to the stop and braking hard. Conversely, when starting from a dead stop, apply a steady but slow pressure to the gas peddle instead of the "jack rabbit" getaway.

Another gas saver is, where it's safe (especially highway driving) use the cruise control. Set at the speed limit, maybe a mile or two higher, and keep the vehicle at a constant speed.



BOARD of DIRECTORS & COMMITTEES

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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.