

# TRAILS



May 2007

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**Notice of Next Board Meeting**

The next regular meeting will be held at 2 PM on Tuesday, May 22 at the Faith Lutheran Church on Beneva Road.

Residents are always welcome to attend Board meetings.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HOWARD PASCOE



As the hurricane season approaches, it is time to remind residents of Deer Creek's Emergency Disaster Response Plan. This plan goes into effect

once the hurricane or other disaster has passed. Equipped with two-way radios, team leaders and area volunteers will survey their streets observing if street signs require temporary replacement; observe area homes for obvious damage; check on neighbors who might require first aid and direct them or help them to the nearest medically trained, well-equipped resident volunteer first aider (designated by a red cross flag in their yard next to the street); report to their

area leader the presence of downed trees and debris blocking streets, fire hydrants and drains.

Tree and debris removal volunteers will be available with chain saws to move aside any trees, branches and other debris that might prevent emergency vehicles from gaining access where needed.

By placing a Red Cross flag in their yard near the street, medically trained residents are indicating that they are ready to perform emergency first aid. The more seriously injured will be reported to the area leader for outside emergency help. Defibrillators are strategically located so that they can be readily available within minutes to

*(Continued on page 3)*

## BOARD MEETING WELL ATTENDED

On Tuesday afternoon, April 24, a larger than usual number of residents (twenty-five) attended the monthly Board of Directors meeting. Two discussion items seemed to be of primary interest: a) concern about the poor condition of the two properties owned by John A. Yanchek; and b) a homeowner's appeal of a fine levied for a rules violation.



*(Continued on page 6)*



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

**DCCA Board of Directors**

Position	Name	Term Ends
President	Howard Pascoe	2008
V. President	Howard Tisch	2009
Secretary	Claire Power	2008
Treasurer	Tom Frey	2008
Director	Jay Olin	2009
Director	Phil Mentz	2008
Director	Linda Slack	2009
Director	Richard Tabor	2009
Director	Sandy Twyon	2009

**Committee Chairpersons**

Budget & Finance	Tom Frey
Communications	Linda Slack
Design & Development	Howard Pascoe
Landscape & Irrigation	Grace Cufarro
Lakes & Animals	Dick Spayd
Rails to Trails ( <i>ad hoc</i> )	Al Mahan
Social Committee	Nancy Zeman & Dee Forsyth
Streets & Structures	Richard Tabor
Rules & Regulations	Phil Mentz
Traffic	Jay Olin

**Key Positions**

Palmer Ranch Communities Coalition	Howard Pascoe
Palmer Ranch Master Association	Sandy Twyon
Pref. Vendors List	Ron Meijer
Telephone Book	Clark Southworth
TRAILS Distribution	Candi Messerschmidt
TRAILS Editor	Clark Southworth
Webmaster	Fred Rowley
Welcoming	Mary Ann Spayd
Gatehouse Captain	Dmitriy Khasik

# EDITOR'S DESK

CLARK SOUTHWORTH



I've just finished laying out the 2007 edition of the Deer Creek Directory Handbook

and will have it printed in time for distribution with this *TRAILS*. Most people in Deer Creek do not know that we have moved away from the old way of doing

the phone book: a separate database that resided with one volunteer resident who took responsibility for its updating and publication. It was always a nightmare trying to keep it in sync with the information that was maintained on the gatehouse computer.

Today we produce the Directory using the same database that is used by the guards at the McIntosh gatehouse. The integrated database project was initiated back in 2004 by then-president George Ulrich. I

headed the *ad hoc* committee, and over some months, we came up with a plan. We replaced the old (and much outdated) computer and software right before its final crash. We laid out the requirements for a new database application that would serve the Community's needs in the future. Then we went

looking for companies to bid the work. "Today we produce the Directory using the same database as that used by the guards at the McIntosh gatehouse."

It turned out that all the bids appeared to be very expensive for something that was not really that difficult. In the end, we developed our own system. We started using it one year ago this month. Some of you may have noticed the new printed passes that are a part of the new system. As opposed to the old proprietary database that could not be altered or enhanced, the new database can be "worked on" by any qualified Access programmer, a specialty not as rare as you might think. ■

Questions or suggestions regarding publication of the Deer Creek Community Association *TRAILS* newsletter should be directed to Clark Southworth:

**[clarktrails@verizon.net](mailto:clarktrails@verizon.net)**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

a required location. These units are operated by Certified Red Cross CPR/AED homeowners.

Security volunteers will man the McIntosh and Woodbriar gates if our guards are not present. Their job is to prevent access to the Deer Creek property by unauthorized persons. All who wish to enter Deer Creek must show a picture ID and prove they have legitimate business on the premises.

Radio-equipped leaders will stay in touch with the plan leaders, Howard Pascoe and Bill Edelman.

If it appears that a hurricane will hit our area, residents with special needs may wish to be transported or transport themselves to the Sarasota County Special Needs Shelter. This County program requires prior planning as the shelter will not accept anyone who was not previously identified by written application. For an application form, contact Howard Pascoe at 923-1516.

### **TO BECOME PART OF OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM, CALL HOWARD PASCOE!**

Some ideas to help families prepare for a disaster:

- Create a communication plan.
- Choose an out of town contact that household members can reach to check on each other. Make certain that all family members have this contact number, plus numbers for each other (include home, work, pager, cell). Phones may not work, be patient and retry.
- Identify a place where children can meet with you in case of emergency.

- Keep pet license and ID tags current with your telephone number. Stock up on pet foods and treats.
- Keep a supply of medication on hand for at least 7 days.
- Keep important documents together: wills, insurance, investments, birth certificates, and household inventories.
- Plan to be without water and electricity for at least 3 days. Keep on hand nonperishable food for 3 days, 1 to 3 lbs per person per day of dried fruit, nonfat dry milk, canned tuna, beans, canned fruit juice, nuts, crackers; 3 to 6 gallons of water per person, manual can opener, charcoal for grill and matches.
- Make sure you have a flashlight, batteries, and a portable battery operated radio.
- Bring indoors objects that could fly: trash cans, toys, patio furniture.
- Keep your car gas tank filled at least ½.
- **DON'T WAIT FOR THE LAST MINUTE.** Store supplies may be shorthanded.

Starting on June 1<sup>st</sup>, hurricane protection devices can be installed and remain in position until Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. (Plywood covering windows or doors may be in place only 5 days prior to an impending storm to no more than 5 days after the storm has passed.)

Now, on the lighter side of goings on...Palmer Ranch Artists, some of which are from Deer Creek, are displaying their art at Spanish Point until May 31st. There is no admission charge to the gallery. The hours are Monday - Saturday

9 AM - 5 PM. Seeing their artwork may inspire some of you to start taking art classes. There is hidden talent out there just waiting to burst forth.

I've just been notified by the Southwest Florida Water Management District of the recent changes to restrictions of water usage. Non-compliance with any of these new regulations can bring fines up to \$500 for each incident. The restrictions prohibit any watering, regardless of the water source, between 8 AM and 6 PM on parcels less than 2 acres in size. The watering days remain the same. Addresses ending in even numbers may only water on Tuesdays. Addresses ending in odd numbers may only water on Thursdays. The new restrictions state that no landscaped area may receive more than one complete irrigation application each allowable watering day. Also new is that all automatic irrigation systems must have a functioning rain shut-off device which will be used to stop watering when raining. Community common areas may only be watered on Tuesdays before 10 AM and after 4 PM.

All residents are urged to use water wisely. Simple measures such as taking shorter showers, turning off the water while brushing teeth, running washing machines only with full loads, and delaying car washing can make a big impact when implemented broadly. A unified effort will help protect our water supply and the environment.☑



# BOARD ACTIONS

CLAIRE POWER



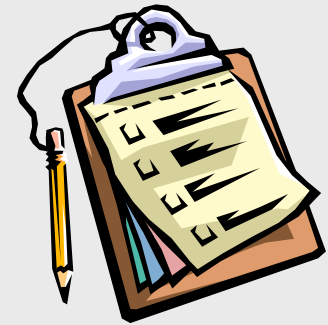
Actions at the April 24, 2007 meeting:

- Proposed, that the necessary arrangements be made to

mow the lawns and trim the plantings at 4666 Deer Creek Boulevard and 4385 Maplewood Lane and that the mortgage holders be contacted and arrangements made for the future maintenance of these properties. The Board unanimously approved the action.

- Resolved that \$96,000 from a CD maturing on May 6, 2007 be reinvested in a CD with a maturity up to 3-years. Said CD to be purchased at the best available interest rate. The Board unanimously approved the action.
- Resolved that the parking fine levied against the owner of 8034 Bobcat Circle be reduced to \$250 from \$1000. The Board approved the action.
- Resolved that the community replace the camera system at the Woodbriar gate. The cost of the replacement system is

anticipated to be approximately \$2,500. This cost to be charged to reserves. The Board unanimously approved the action.■



Deer Creek Community Association, Sarasota, Florida

- HOME
- LOCATION
- CONTACTS
- CALENDAR
- DOCUMENTS
- LAKES



WHAT WE ARE:

- An attractive bit of real estate a stone's throw - figuratively - from the most incredible beach in southwest Florida (Siesta Key).
- A vest-pocket-sized plot of land (but with 485 homes and villas) festooned with enough lakes - 17 - to make Minnesota mad with envy.
- A designer's epiphany of meandering lanes, grassy knolls and variegated, mature landscaping that draws gasps from visitors.
- A Carnegie Hall of chirps, warbles, squawks and cacophonies from a feathered parade that may march across your backyard or your driveway at any time.
- A casually disciplined passion for beauty and deed-restricted order behind friendly, but guarded gates, and tended by dedicated resident volunteers who want their community to be the tops.

Read the current issue of our newsletters, the [Deer Creek Trails](#) and the [Villa's Voice](#). [Previous issues](#) are also available.

You can review the neighborhood vendors list [here](#).

## Deer Creek Web Site

In case you have not noticed, there have been a number of major improvements to our site ([www.deercreeksarasota.org](http://www.deercreeksarasota.org))

Particularly noteworthy is Ron Meijer's Preferred Vendor's list which can be found easily by clicking the underlined "here" (see photo at left) at the bottom of the home page.

## Coming later this month:

Photos of Homes, Streets, Birdlife and other information about our community. If you are moving, our Web site is a great selling point!



# LAKES, WATERWAYS AND ANIMALS

DICK SPAYD



As I sit to compose this report to the Board on April 20, I'm intrigued that the headlines of the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*

today discusses the problem of controlling fertilizers on our lawns, and the fact that excess fertilizer contributes to algae blooms. This is a statement that I continually get from people of Aquagenix who speak of seeing excess fertilizer on the roadways and sidewalks which eventually gets washed into our lakes and contributes to our algae blooms. I request that all people who fertilize lawns themselves or have a lawn service, and those who service the common grounds, use the minimum amount of fertilizer required to keep the lawns green and healthy

and then sweep (or blow) the excess fertilizer off the street and pavement onto the lawns. Nevertheless, at this moment I find that our lakes are looking quite good. However, Lake 1-3, by the circle behind the guardhouse, has a considerable bloom, and Aquagenix reports seeing excess fertilizer in the roadway and on the pavement by this lake. All of our 17 lakes were treated today for algae and submersed grasses.

The large sump pump that supplies water from the McIntosh trunk canal to Lakes 1-7 and 1-6 (between McIntosh Road and Shadow Pine Way, and Lake 2-2 (between Eagle Ridge and White Egret lanes) failed in early April. It was removed by volunteers and taken for repair. As the pump had been rebuilt once already, it was no longer economical to repair and a new pump was purchased and installed.



**The Lakes Committee asks that local homeowners NOT turn on any of our very expensive pumps. Doing so when water is inadequate during the dry season will cause premature pump failure. Instead of taking action yourself, call a member of the committee.**

Algae again had covered the lights at the fountain in the entrance lake, Lake 1-1. The lights were cleaned by Aquagenix.■

## Notice to Readers

The next (June) issue will be the last edition of the *TRAILS* for the summer (unless someone volunteers - see below). The first fall issue will be published the first or second of week in October.

If there is someone in Deer Creek who would like to try publishing a summer issue, please contact me (Clark Southworth 922-5081). Minimum requirements are having Microsoft Publisher (it is part of some Office 2003 versions) installed on your computer and/or having good Windows skills and being very familiar with Microsoft Word (more than just writing letters). I have the basic format established, but getting all to print the way you want will require time and patience. Call and I'll be happy to explain the details.

## MEETING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

At the meeting, several residents complained about the bad condition and appearance of the properties at 4385 Maplewood Lane and 4666 Deer Creek Boulevard. These two properties appear to be owned by Mr. John A. Yanchek, a Sarasota attorney who has made the local news through his association with a number of questionable real estate deals. To quote the article in the April 27, 2006 edition of the Herald-Tribune:

“Property owners in Sarasota and Manatee counties have filed lawsuits against real estate investor Neil Mohamed Husani and his attorney, John A. Yanchek, for breaching two multimillion-dollar real estate contracts and for failing to release escrow deposits totaling \$900,000.”

Howard Pascoe explained that the Deer Creek Community Association had already filed a



### All nine board members attended the April meeting and listened to homeowner opinions and concerns.

foreclosure action against said properties, and that realistically little more could be done. Since there were banks ahead of Deer Creek in the line to collect debt owed, the best hope it seemed, would be for the banks to successfully foreclose and then sell the properties to legitimate homeowners.

Residents and board members discussed the legalities of improving the property in the absence of specific homeowner approval. An opinion rendered by Deer Creek’s legal committee appeared to support our

association’s going onto the property to cut grass and remove weeds. The Board approved a motion to have this done by our common grounds maintenance crew.

The second major issue concerned a homeowner who was appealing a fine. In addition to stating that he would cease parking in the driveway overnight, he told the Board that such a large (\$1000) fine at this time would create a serious problem for his family. He also argued that he had been surprised that the fine had been levied. Rules and Regulations chairman Phil Mentz gave a detailed explanation of the multi-step process and series of letters that preceded the levying of the fine. Mr. Mentz offered complete documentation that all steps had been taken exactly according to the Deer Creek documents and stated that the process always began with a simple written notice explaining the nature of the rule violation. After hearing all parties wishing to comment, the Board voted to reduce the fine to \$250.■

### Attention Deer Creek Drivers and Bicyclists

Florida law requires drivers to keep at least three feet of distance when passing a bicycle.  
Let’s be safe!





# TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

JAY OLIN



At a recent meeting, Clark Southworth brought the Committee up to date on the gatehouse computer system upgrade. In

addition to installing new hardware components, the database software now contains easy-to-access resident information including vehicle bar codes, license plate numbers, email addresses and records guest/vendor access authorizations, issues entry passes electronically and generally increases the efficiency of entry access processing by the guards.

Next, we discussed extensively the best way to proceed to replace and upgrade the Woodbriar gate camera system which currently cannot adequately and efficiently record access and egress as required. The committee will find the best stand-alone camera system available at an acceptable price. The new system

criteria are to include: ease of maintenance, digital-based, night vision capability, motion activation, and sufficient cameras to monitor vehicle and pedestrian access and egress at the Woodbriar gate. It was determined that



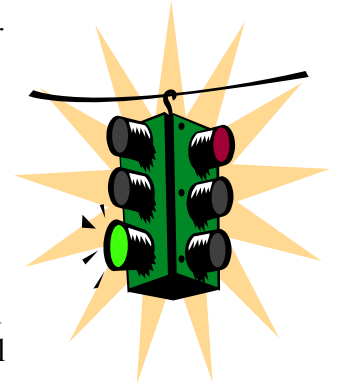
**One of the three security cameras at the Woodbriar gate. Improved cameras may be installed soon.**

special cameras are necessary to reliably capture license plate numbers and they are relatively

expensive. The selected camera system will be installed and monitored for several months before deciding whether the system should be duplicated at the McIntosh gate and connecting the two gates so that both can be monitored by the guards.

The supply of unused bar code stickers is getting low so Ron Benice agreed to confirm the existing inventory and research sources to order sufficient new stickers in the proper number sequence.

Capt. Dmitriy Khasik was an invited guest at the April meeting. ◼



## Security Camera Expertise Needed

If you have experience or knowledge of digital video camera recording systems, we need your help to evaluate equipment and proposals.

Please call Jay Olin - 926-9171



# SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

DEE FORSYTH & NANCY ZEMAN



The Ladies Lunch held at Café Baci on April 5 was attended by 26 ladies. Everyone enjoyed the meal and the camaraderie with friends and neighbors.

The Mixer held at the home of Ali and Greg Goebel on April 13 was attended by over 50 residents. Many thanks to Jim Baxter who played the keyboard to set the party mood. Everyone had a great time. Thanks to Ali and Greg for opening their lovely home.

On April 29, a number of residents and friends attended "Last Call" Ballet. This was the final performance of the last production of Robert deWarren before his retirement. Thanks to Sharron and Al Mahan for

organizing this event.

## Ladies Luncheon, June 7, noon

– Irma Nehman has arranged for a private room at the Venice Yacht Club for our first Thursday in June gathering. Please choose an entrée – Flounder Anglaise coated with buttered breadcrumbs, baked and served with a lemon butter sauce, vegetable, wild rice blend and salad OR Cobb Salad (both with rolls, coffee and tea. Dessert will be a Chocolate Fudge Cake with raspberry coulis and whipped cream rosette. Lunch, gratuity and tax is \$19.50; wine is \$5.00. Please make check payable to Deer Creek Social Committee, indicate your entrée choice, and send to : Irma Nehman - 921-2252. We hope that you can join your friends and neighbors at this beautiful site for great food and companionship.

**Snook Haven Event**, Thursday, June 14. Come see, feel and listen to a bit of Old Florida. Join your Deer Creek neighbors for lunch at

Venice's Snook Haven "Home of the Killer Turtles." Hear the music of the Banjo Society from 11 to 1:30 while munching some fine Southern cooking, browsing the beer and wine list and tapping your feet in time to the music. Next, enjoy a one-hour narrated cruise exploring one of "Florida's Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers" – The Mighty Myakka (\$12.00 + tax). Reservations required for the cruise. Lunch will be ordered from the menu. This event is very casual. To reserve a place for lunch and for the cruise,



**Snook Haven Restaurant & Fish Camp is located on the Myakka River.**

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Social Opportunities at a Glance:

June 7	Ladies Luncheon - Irma Nehman (921-2252)
June 14	Snook Haven Event - Joan Wills (921 -3846)
June 27	Cooking Class - Sharron Mahan (929-7694).
Oct 17	LeBarge Cruise Sarasota Waterways

## Ongoing:

1 <sup>st</sup> Monday/month	Artists of Palmer Ranch (Jeanne C. Romance - 924-8182)
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday/month	Deer Creek Ladies Lunch Group - Sharron Mahan (929-7694)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday/month	Men's Poker (Herman Freese - 927-6805)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday/month	Book Club (Joan Saunders - 925-0453)
Variable	Mah Jongg (Pat Krug - 927-5062)





## SOCIAL CLUB NEWS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 8)

call Joan Wills (921-3846).

**Cooking Class at the Rolling Pin Emporium** in Sarasota Square Mall, June 27 from 6 till 8 PM. Limited to the first twenty people to reserve a



space. "Quick Meals" class and demonstration with three or four recipes included and generous tasting of each recipe. You will learn how to prepare simple and easy recipes using fresh local and seasonal ingredients. Price is \$31 per person. Call Sharron Mahan for reservations (929-7694).

A **Scavenger Hunt** is being planned for residents of elementary school age through high school age to take place this summer. Watch for information about date and time and location.

**LeBarge Cruise October 17.** Welcome Back Snowbirds Party. More information will follow.

**Mixers:** We need volunteers to host Mixers in their homes during the months of June, July, August and September. The mixers have been very successful. There is no cost to you as everyone is asked to bring a beverage, an appetizer to share, and \$1 per person to cover any costs. For more information, call Charlotte Emerson (924-4572).

**Holiday Activities** – Social Committee Members are looking into the possibilities for December – a bus

trip to Tampa to see the Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular and the traditional Deer Creek Holiday Party.

**NEW!**

### DEER CREEK TRAVEL CLUB

If you're a travel lover and would enjoy sharing your experiences with others who share your enthusiasm, then this is the group for you. We will meet once a month or so at one of the member's homes to discuss trips we've taken and exchange information and pointers. We can show our movies, slides or pictures and discuss interesting, sometimes humorous, experiences that we've had. Many of our residents are experienced world travelers, but even if you're just a beginner, this should be an exciting, informative group. There will be an organizational meeting this month. For more information call Judy Kupperbusch (961-8401) or Nancy Zeman (927-7522).

FYI - We have no affiliation with any travel agency and no intentions of group travel; rather we are just a group of people who share a love of travel!

### Ongoing:

**Book Club** meets the second Friday of the month. Call Joan Saunders (925-0453) for information.

**Deer Creek Ladies Lunch Group** meets first Thursday of the month. Call Sharron Mahan (929-7694) for information.

**Men's Poker Club** meets monthly at a member's home. Call Herman Freese for information (927-6805).

**Mah Jongg:** If you would like to play Mah Jongg, please call Pat Krug at 927-5062 for details. Lessons for new players can be set up if there is interest.

If anyone is interested in forming a group for ladies' or mixed golf, call Judy Kupperbusch (961-8401).



We are always interested in new ideas for activities.

Please call one of the Social Committee members if there's something you'd like to help plan. E-mail us with your ideas:

Dee Forsyth  
([bndif@comcast.net](mailto:bndif@comcast.net))  
and  
Nancy Zeman  
([nzeman@comcast.net](mailto:nzeman@comcast.net)).☐

## PALMER RANCH SPRINGFEST

SANDY TWYON



A **BIG THANK YOU** to all the Deer Creek volunteers who helped in the first annual Palmer Ranch Springfest!

Deer Creek volunteers were:

**Pat and Don Beckwith**  
**Joan Brasch**  
**Bill and Julie Dailey**  
**Rachel and James Farnum**  
**George Freeman**  
**Lorraine Glixon**  
**Ali and George Goebel**  
**J.C. Grimme**  
**Lois and Chuck Hopson**  
**Donna Hurley**  
**Betty Laughlin**  
**Al and Sharron Mahan**

**Jack and Candi Messerschmidt**  
**Mike Messerschmidt**  
**Janet Montgomery**  
**Leonard and Gloria Nathanson**  
**Kathy and Jay Olin**  
**John Olson**  
**Joe and Kathleen Schmitt**  
**Fran Van Schoor**  
**Alice Shaw**  
**Mary Ann Spayd**  
**Lynn Towson**  
**George Ulrich**  
**Joan Wills**  
**Nancy and Jack Zeman**  
**Mark Zeman**

Thanks again to you all for representing Deer Creek so well!

## STREETS AND STRUCTURES

RICHARD TABOR



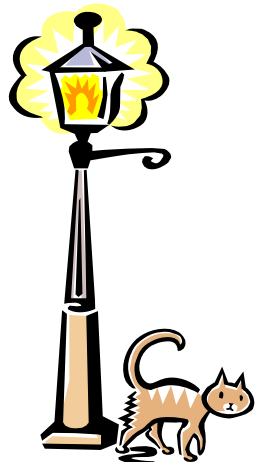
### Gatehouses

The exit gate to the Woodbriar entrance recently developed a noticeable squeak during

the process of opening for approaching vehicles. Members of the Streets and Structures Committee made repairs by oiling the bearings and support mechanism.

### Street Lights

The Streets and Structures Committee surveyed the Deer Creek community and discovered two street lights in the Villas and



one light on Deer Creek Boulevard not functioning. Committee members made repairs by replacing photo-electric cells, bulbs and a ballasts.

### Street Signs

Due to deterioration, the street signs located at the intersection of Deer Creek Boulevard and Deer Trail Boulevard are scheduled to be replaced by a contractor in the near future. A stop sign and post broken by an unknown vehicle on Shadow Pine Way will be replaced during this time.

### Fence

Two broken finials on the Woodbriar entrance fence (see photo below) were replaced by committee members.



If you have questions or concerns relating to streets and structures, please contact me at [rtrennis@att.net](mailto:rtrennis@att.net). ■



## DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

HOWARD PASCOE



In accordance with Deer Creek Development Standards and Architectural Requirements (now posted on the Deer

Creek Web Site: [www.deercreeksarasota.org](http://www.deercreeksarasota.org)), approval from the Design and Development Board is required before any changes are made to the appearance of the exterior of any home in our community. This includes painting the exterior, installing a new roof, as well as any additions or removals from the property (e.g. trees, shrubs, decorative items, etc.).

The following covers D&D activities through April:

**8700 Woodbriar Dr.** - Approved removal of bush from front of house and replant in rear.

**4493 Deer Creek Blvd.** - Approved new path along side of house.

**8624 Woodbriar Dr.** - Approved removal of dying shrubs and replacement. New landscape plantings list on file.

**8467 Cypress Hollow Dr.** - Approved removal of two scale infested Dwarf Sago Palms and replacement with Pigmy Date Palm. Approved replacing other plantings - list on file.

**4492 White Egret Ln.** - Approved painting exterior of house. Color chips on file.

**4729 White Tail Ln.** - Approved removal of dying hibiscus and replacement with crotons.

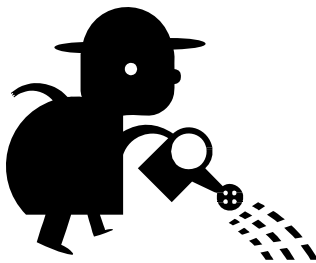
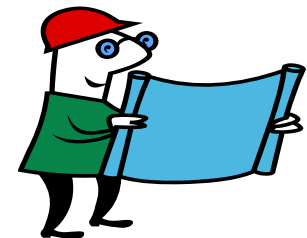
**4546 Deer Creek Blvd.** - Approved removal of several plants on side of house and replacement with shrubs.

**4564 Deer Trail Blvd.** - Approved installation of hurricane protection devices.

**4472 Deer Trail Blvd.** - Approved installation of new gutters.

**4654 Deer Creek Blvd.** - Approved landscaping revisions.

**The Villas Landscape Committee, and a Sarasota County official, upon the advice from a licensed arborist, approved the removal of several *Washingtonia* palm trees and three Norfolk pines considered a danger of falling during a hurricane.☐**



### NEW WATERING RULES IN EFFECT

Sarasota County residents on properties two acres or less in size may water only before 8 AM or after 6 PM.

# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

PHIL MENTZ



The hurricane season is soon to begin, and although all is fairly quiet at the moment, that could change very soon. As a

veteran of three hurricanes and a couple of tropical storms over the years, I offer a few hints which might prove helpful to new residents (and reminders for those more experienced).

Electricity likely will be lost early on. Although power lines may be buried in our neighborhood, the lines leading to Deer Creek and the sub-stations are exposed and will be damaged quickly. Expect to be without power early and long. On one occasion, we were without power for a week despite the 24 hour efforts of local repair crews assisted by crews from neighboring states. The telephone is lower priority than electricity, and it may be out longer. Cell phones are not immune, as the towers are exposed. There was no cell phone service in Charlotte County after Hurricane Charlie went through in 2004.

Fill empty plastic liquid containers with water and place in freezer. They will supply water, and placed in the refrigerator and freezer, will also slow the thawing of freezer and warming of refrigerator contents during power outage.

Keep a supply of towels on hand. High winds will force water around the window and door frames. It will run down the inside and puddle on the floor. The towels may be used to soak up the water. Wring them out into the bathtub.

Without electricity, many things will not operate. Gas ovens may be inaccessible to light with a match, although top burners of a gas stove and gas grills should be usable.

If you have a gasoline powered portable generator, do not connect it to the circuit breaker panel or any part of the incoming distribution system of your house. To do so could pose a hazard to you and could possibly create a serious threat to anyone working on damaged power lines. Connect directly to the generator those items requiring power. Do it with heavy extension cords, like the ones used for outside work (hedge shears, etc.). As the capacity of portable generators is limited, connect the refrigerator for a couple of hours, then switch to the freezer. Continue to alternate, and both should be able to maintain themselves. Of course, open them as infrequently as possible.

For light, lanterns and lamps are much safer than candles. Do not use gasoline in lanterns or lamps. It is extremely dangerous.

The city water supply is pressurized by elevated tanks. These are filled by pumps, which may or may not be operable after a power failure. It is possible to lose water supply, even though there has been no structural damage to the system. Of course, without power any irrigation well water will not be accessible.

Don't overlook the hot water tank as a source of water. To keep it clean, it's a good idea to attach a garden hose to the faucet at the bottom edge of the tank and allow some water to flow. Turn off when a clean flow is observed. Bear in mind that the water will be hot, and the hose softened and weakened.



Do not turn it off at the nozzle. Turn off at the tank and allow the hose to cool.

If the eye of the hurricane passes over, the quiet interval will afford a brief opportunity to take any necessary steps to improve personal safety. This does not include going outside, as the reduction in wind speed is a relative term, and there could still be substantial wind. The interval will not last long; it depends upon the forward speed of the storm.

If you do not have gas-supplied cooking facilities, be sure that there is charcoal or propane for the portable grill. It will be necessary to cook food as it thaws to avoid loss. The meat and fish will generally thaw out in the order of fish, fowl and beef or pork.

The garage doors present a large area to the wind. If they fail, the wind may lift the roof and cause great damage. A stopgap brace can be made of your vehicle(s). Ease them back against the door, with sheet plywood between the door and the vehicle to distribute the load. Set the brake or otherwise immobilize the vehicle.■



# PALMER RANCH COMMUNITIES COALITION

HIGHLIGHTS OF PALMER RANCH COMMUNITIES COALITION (PRCC) MEETING 4/12/07

## HOWARD PASCOE



The first order of business was an update from the focus group for Palmer Ranch parks. The area south of the YMCA and the aquatic

center on Potter Park Drive will be provided with 200 more parking spaces. A gazebo will be built in an area so that it can be seen from the road. Electric power will be installed for music; picnic grounds with BBQ grills; a butterfly garden and possibly a bocce court will also be provided. These improvements will take place gradually as the County will be funding this project in stages until 2010.

## SOLID WASTE

Jerry Palmer, from Sarasota County Environmental Services, gave a presentation on solid waste, the purpose of which was to promote education to all communities about recycling procedures. The County Ordinance states that collection containers and other items must be placed no more than three feet from the curb, no earlier than 5 PM of the day before pickup. All items must be at the curb no later than 6 AM on pickup day. All containers must be removed from the curb by 10 AM the day after collection.

- Garbage must be placed in containers with closed lids, or

closed plastic bags.

- Each container or bag cannot weigh more than 40 lbs. Items that weigh more than 40 lbs. require a special pickup. Call Waste Management at 493-4100. To schedule a pickup of an appliance or an electronic device, call 48 hours prior to your regular collection day. Remove all food items and refrigerator doors from the appliance before placing at the curb. Small handheld appliances such as mixers, blenders, coffee pots, toasters, VCR and DVD players can be placed in the garbage for disposal. Auto tires up to 25 inches in diameter, on or off the rim, can be placed next to your garbage for free pickup.
- Place motor oil in containers that are one gallon or less and have screw top lids and the words "Used Motor Oil" visibly written on the container. There is a limit of five gallons of oil and five oil filters per week.
- Bulk items are picked up free but must be scheduled for pickup by calling Waste Management 48 hours before your regular collection day and include mattresses, box springs, sofa beds, toilets, sinks, barbecue grills (remove propane cylinder), carpet (cut to four foot lengths not heavier than 40 lbs. and folded, rolled, tied or taped), and ladders.
- Oversized items are **not**

**picked up free!** Included in this category are basketball poles, bathtubs, Christmas trees more than six feet tall (remove tinsel and ornaments), construction material such as dry wall, wood, concrete (exceeding four 32 gallon containers), garage doors, exercise equipment, large glass windows and table tops, large mirrors, mailboxes on posts, pianos, picnic tables, riding lawn mowers, sliding glass doors, tree debris exceeding 40 lbs., 16 inches in diameter, four feet in length or is not bundled bagged or tied.

- Place garbage and recycling bins on the right side of the driveway as you leave the house. Yard waste containers should be placed on the left side of the driveway as you leave the house. Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, palm fronds, tree limbs and branches. Unprepared yard waste will not be picked up. Place yard waste in containers (not cardboard boxes) or tie in bundles no more than four feet in length, 16 inches in dia. and not over 40 lbs. (do not place in plastic bags), remove fruit from branches and dispose of fruit in the garbage.
- Waste Management will provide free rear door service for garbage and recycling pick-up to a resident who provides a doctor's medical certification of necessity.
- Do not mix household hazardous waste, motor oil, recyclables,

*(Continued on page 15)*

## LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION

GRACE CUFFARO



The new plantings (see photo) at the front entrance to the community continue to thrive and grow.



areas being irrigated at those particular times. We will always attempt to do our best to accommodate the homeowners but the new plantings will take priority.

As an aside, newly-planted lawns and landscape areas may be watered any day of the week for a 30-day establishment period that begins the day that the plant material is installed.

The full text of the new restrictions is published in this issue of the TRAILS. ■

Very shortly, we will be replacing fourteen diseased *Elaeagnus* plants, which run along McIntosh Road. The replacement of the plants is necessary as the existing plants are dying and the replacement has been requested by several homeowners in the Villas. The cost of the replacement is \$434.

The continuing drought has caused Sarasota County to impose new

watering restrictions. Among the new restrictions is a change in the times of day that a community may water its common areas.

The watering rules now dictate that all common areas of Deer Creek be watered before 10 AM or after 4 PM. The new watering times may prompt complaints by homeowners who want to walk or drive in the

## REAL ESTATE CORNER

ISABELLA DEJOHN



Deer Creek has seventeen houses and four villas listed for sale. Listing prices range from \$500,000 to \$815,000 for the houses, and \$319,000 to \$450,000 for the villas.

One house has sold this past month: 4735 White Tail Lane at \$445,000, and one house is still pending.

A few statistics: only eight houses have sold over the past year. The average sales price per square foot was \$223. Closing sale price was 92.75% of the FINAL listing price.



Four villas have sold at an average per square foot of \$205. Closing sale price was 92.5% of the FINAL listing price.

Many of these homes have been listed for several months or more, and have had multiple price reductions along the way.

We seem to carry the same amount of "For Sale" inventory as we have the past months--very little change--a "slow market"!

*Information is derived from the Sarasota Association of Realtors and does not reflect any private sales activity.  
Isabella Phillips DeJohn, Realtor, Crown Properties Group*



## PALMER RANCH COMMUNITIES COALITION (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 13)

needles or yard waste in garbage containers or bags.

- Bring household hazardous waste to the Chemical Collection Center, 8750 Bee Ridge Road. Wednesday to Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., for safe, free disposal. Included in this category are auto batteries and fluids, drain cleaners, paint, thinner, stripper, varnishes, gasoline, pesticides, pool acids, propane tanks (up to 20 lbs.), lawn and garden chemicals, fluorescent light bulbs and aerosol cans with product.

Free mulch and compost is available for pick up for home use at Central County Landfill, 4000 Knights Trail Rd. in Nokomis; Nokomis Community Park, 234 Nippino Tr., Nokomis; Rothenbach Park, 8750 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota. These are the closest locations to Deer Creek. Bring your own containers and shovels. Open 8 a.m. to 5 p. m.

Solid waste facility tours are available. Several representatives from Palmer Ranch Communities

went on this tour and all raved about it. Tours are available on May 9, 16 and 23. Tour begins at 8:30 AM and ends at 12:15 PM Call 861-5000 and ask for Solid Waste Tours.

**RAILS TO TRAILS** - Starting next to the old Venice Railroad Depot, running under the Venice bridge, north 10.6 miles to Sawyer Loop Rd. just north of Palmer Ranch.

**Phase I** - Rails and ties were removed and shell base laid.

**Phase II** - Projects underway: asphalt to be poured making trail 12' wide; some trestles repaired or replaced; trailhead connections - parking, restrooms and access. Laurel Park and Oscar Scherer Park rest stations with a bench and overhead cover to look like the old Venice railroad depot. Other rest stations to follow.

**Phase III** - Starting in February 2008, the Dona and Roberts Bay trestles will be repaired. Water fountains, some rest rooms, and other amenities will be in place (these features have not yet been

funded). Where the Stoneybrook trail presently ends, it will be extended to where Rails to Trails crosses on Central Sarasota Parkway.

### **PUBLIC ACCESS TO NATURAL AREAS**

In Sarasota County there are 17,000 acres of land which have no public access. Nothing can be done at this time until the committee working on this project gets input and feedback from the public. A site cannot be opened until thorough planning is completed and sensitivity of the land is considered in relation to: eagles' nests, wildlife and preservation of its nature.

Part of the planning includes: kayak launch, hiking trails, bird observation, picnic areas, etc.

*Howard Pascoe  
Deer Creek Representative*

### **Assessment Reminder**

Quarterly 2007 assessments of **\$210** are due as follows:

1. Jan 1, 2007
2. April 1, 2007
3. **July 1, 2007**
4. Oct 1, 2007

Payments must be received within 30 days of the due date to avoid a late charge of \$25 plus interest and other costs.

For your convenience, sign up for automatic payment whereby your bank, at no charge to you, sends in the exact amount each quarter.

To sign up for automatic payment or for questions regarding payments, please call AMI at 359-1134



## CLASSIFIEDS

### FREE BICYCLE

Man's 24 inch Rover Eclipse model (traditional -- i.e., one speed). It is used but in good condition.

It is free to anyone who would like it.

Douglas Anderson 926-2303

### FOR SALE

Childcraft Crib  
Pac-N-Play Playpen  
Plastic Highchair  
Booster Seat

Saga Larson 925-8207

### FOR SALE

Black Leather **Office Chair**, adjustable, swivel, headrest, like new, \$40.

#### Tennis Racquets:

Wilson Code N1 - like new - strung, case - \$75  
Pro Kennex K30 - like new - strung, case - \$75  
Pro Kennex Core1 - wood core, strung, case - \$25

Jane Bell 923-8397

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### Deer Creek Community Association Advertisement Policy

Personal classified advertisements are free for Deer Creek residents. "Commercial" ads for residents will be accepted on a space available basis and subject to modification at the discretion of the editor. Only text ads and graphics transmitted by e-mail will be accepted. You will receive an e-mail reply when your ad has been received. It is not necessary to format your ad as that will be done by the editor. The **DEADLINE** for ads is the 28th of the month. Please e-mail advertisements to [clarktrails@verizon.net](mailto:clarktrails@verizon.net)



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