



*The Villas Voice*  
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**Message from the President:**

This year has been very busy again. We now have a choice to paint our houses and garage doors several new colors with approval from the Architectural Board (ARB). Also, if you would like to change your outdoor light fixtures, ARB has several new selections to choose from.

At the pool house, we replaced the partitions in each bathroom and put in a new drinking fountain. Next year we are putting in new counter tops, then the pool house should be in good condition.

We changed our time of year to do the annual mulching to the first part of November so it would look nice for the holidays. Also, this is after the rainy season and the mulch should not wash right away.

Nancy and Jack Zeman did an inspection of all our mailboxes. They have made a list as to what needs to be done to each mailbox, such as posts needing paint, etc. We are hoping to get a group of volunteers to do some of the minor repairs this winter. Bob Hulvat has volunteered to be our guy in charge of repairs. Call him if you have a problem that needs immediate attention.

This past year has been very dry so landscaping has suffered. Also, we had significantly more bug problems than usual. In addition, our very old irrigation system is in need of much attention. Thankfully, we now have two irrigation experts. Russ Weber and George Ulrich have taken over our irrigation committee and they are doing a super job. They work with the irrigation company every Monday morning and have fixed a lot of problems. We owe them a lot of thanks as they are giving a lot of their time to help keep our community looking great.

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank all of our committees who spent a lot of volunteer time this past year:

ARB - Ron Benice, Jeanne Romance &  
Joni Rushforth  
Finance - Ken McKinnon  
Irrigation - Russ Weber & George Ulrich  
Landscape - Ann Brock & Pat Beckwith  
Welcoming - Doris Benice, Pat Koch &  
Joan Wills  
Social - Pat Koch, Joni Rushforth &  
Nancy Zeman  
Mail Box - Bob Hulvat  
Villas Voice - Joni Rushforth,

We also wish to thank outgoing Board member Jane Bell, 2006 BOD Secretary, for her contribution to the BOD.

A complete list of the new officers and committee members for 2007 is attached to this issue of the Voice. Please hold onto the list, as it will not be published again this year.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. Thank you.

*Gary Koch, President*

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**Message from the Treasurer:**

The attached budget was approved and adopted at the Annual Members Meeting on 30 November 2006. You will note that the monthly assessment will increase from \$179.00 to \$186.00 (slightly less than 4%). This was a result of increasing expenses, the most significant of which are:

- 1. 6% increase in Cable TV
- 2. 20% increase in Insurance
- 3. 4% increase in Lawn Maintenance and associated services
- 4. 20% increase in Pool Maintenance Contract

Expenses for 2006 were pretty much within the 2006 Budget with the exception of significant expenditures for the irrigation system and pool house, which were funded out of reserves.

*Ken McKinnon, Treasurer*

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**Architectural Review Board (ARB):**

**Outside lighting:** On November 1<sup>st</sup> the Board of Directors approved a selection of outside lighting fixtures you may buy to replace those next to garage doors and hanging outside front entrances.

If you are interested, contact Joni Rushforth (922-0094) who will be happy to furnish you

with pictures of the four approved styles and finishes.

When you are ready to make the change, please fill out a Villas Action Request form and submit it with a photo of the fixtures in Ron Benice's mail tube at 4452 DTB.

**Latest ARB Actions:**

- 4424 DTB – Approved removal of three rotted wooden decorative beams at front entry.
- 4615 DTB – Approved outside lighting plan.
- 4596 DTB - Approved installation of satellite antenna.
- 4615 DTB – Approved cement pad outside lanai door.
- 8006 BCC – Approved 3-foot high privacy lattice inside lanai.
- 4432 DTB – Request denied for installation of a birdbath.

*Ron Benice, Chair*

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**Landscape Committee:**

The newly appointed Landscape Committee members are: Bob Angers, Herman Freese, Peggy Eaton, Bob Hulvat and Jack and Nancy Zeman. Nancy was elected Committee Chair.

Members of the Committee will be making inspections of all yards in the near future and will do so on a regular basis in order to assess the condition of turf, plants and trees and monitor the quality of our landscape services. We will be working closely with George Ulrich and Russ Weber of the Irrigation Committee. Our goal is to maintain property values and keep the neighborhood looking beautiful.

We need your help. Please keep an eye on your plants and notify the Committee if you notice brown spots in your yard or on a plant or tree that looks like it's dying.

Obtain a Villas Action Request form at the McIntosh Gatehouse and fill in the requested information so that the Committee can check it out.

We have many new neighbors who may not be aware of the scheduled landscape services and inspections here in the Villas. A listing with time frame follows:

**Mowing of Turf -**

Grass is cut weekly from May through October. In November it is mowed every two weeks, December and January just once each month, then every two weeks during February, March and April. This is usually on Friday but flexible due to rainy weather conditions. Beds and hard surfaces are edged every other mowing.

**Inspections -**

The Landscape Committee members will be making monthly inspections of each yard noting condition of lawn, shrubs and trees. There are six members on the committee dividing the work. Problem areas will be noted and checked by Mike or Jeremy Wilhelm, our Landscape Contractors, for recommendation. Mr. Wilhelm and the landscape chairman will also make monthly inspections of the property. In the meantime, if you notice a potential problem such as a plant not looking good, please if you are physically able, give the plant some water. Many times we can correct the situation without having to replace the plants. Also, if you have new plantings, please water them until they are established.

**Plant Replacement -**

As needed. Preferably during rainy season.

**Winter Landscape Schedule -**

The grass is mowed and edging is done once a month during December and January. It will be cut mid December or as close to the holidays as possible. February through April turf is cut twice monthly. Plants will be lightly pruned on the regular monthly schedule and walk-through ant control will be done.

**New Residents Information -**

We welcome our new neighbors and take this opportunity to inform you of the proper steps to report landscape, irrigation or pest control

problems. Landscape problems should be reported on a "Villas Action Request" form, which you may pick up at the gatehouse. Fill in the information and return it to the gatehouse to be picked up by the landscape chairman. . If you have a problem with ants or other insects, call Fahey Pest Control @ 366-9090.

**Parking -**

Please, **Do Not Ever Park on the Grass.** Sprinkler heads have been broken and the sod has been damaged. Kindly remind your workmen and guests also.

**Pet Owners Reminder -**

Please pick up after your animals. This includes your own yard. The lawn workers and the Landscape Committee would really appreciate it.

Respectfully,  
*Nancy J. Zeman*  
Landscape Chairman

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**Irrigation Committee:**

Our vendor for maintenance of the irrigation system in the Villas is Sarasota Lawn Sprinkler. Two of their employees are here every Monday morning from 8:00 until 10:00 to work with the Irrigation Committee, testing one third of the community each week. This involves a three-minute test of each zone. There are three types of zones-popup heads for the grass, fixed (mostly) heads for the shrubs, and rotors for the larger areas, mainly in rear yards. The largest problem we have is with popups that don't drop back to the surface after sprinkling. These are vulnerable to being run over and broken by the lawn mowers.

If our residents will look for popups after their irrigation day (Tuesday or Thursday) and gently push them down when found, that will save money, effort and water. Also we ask that those residents seeing any other problems with the irrigation equipment, including buried sprinkler heads, please flag the problem and notify either of the committee members by telephone or by

placing a description on a Villas Action Request form in one of our tubes. Please do this prior to Monday so that action can be taken when the vendors are here.

Russ Weber & George Ulrich  
4583 DTB – 921-9150  
4472 DTB – 921-3425 – [geu1834@aol.com](mailto:geu1834@aol.com)  
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**Pool Committee:**

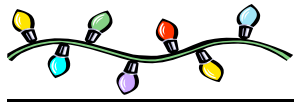
We will be replacing the countertops, sinks and faucets in both restrooms this year. We have received proposals and the Board will award a contract at their January meeting. The work will probably be completed in March.

The cracked area of the pool deck between the pool house and the water filter was replaced recently.

Ron Benice, Chair

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**Villas Social Committee News:**



**Festival of the Lights:** On Saturday 2 December a Villas crew of “willing workers” showed up to decorate the pool house area. Lloyd Jones and Bob Hulvat scampered up and down the ladders wrapping trees with lights and putting up our new wreath, a gift from Jennie and Joni. The ground crew of the Koch’s, Zemans, Pat Beckwith, Bob Angers and Joni was busy unraveling strings of lights, checking them to see if they were still working, draping them over the shrubs, tying on bows here and there and finally standing back to admire our handiwork. A job well done!

George Ulrich was kind enough to set up the Christmas tree by the pool gate to add an extra touch of holiday cheer.

Many thanks to Bob & Dee Angers for the beautiful poinsettias, which Bob set into place after digging and preparing the ground.

For Sunday evening’s lighting ceremony, approximately 30 partiers showed up to watch the lights being turned on and to sing the only two holiday songs that we all sort-of-know: - Deck the Halls and Jingle Bells – Guess we’ll have to hold rehearsals in 2007. I’m not criticizing the singing, you understand, just the selection needs to be updated!

Kudos to all those neighbors on BCC and DTB whose decorating talents literally lit up the neighborhood for the holiday season. It was such a joy walking through the Villas at night gazing at the many attractive displays.

The Social Committee would like to thank Willard Kayser for contributing a radio/CD player to the Villas. He hopes we will enjoy music at all our functions as background music always adds to the festivities.

**Upcoming Party – not to be missed!**



This social event, the first of 2007, will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 4:00 to 6:00 PM at the pool house. We will be celebrating St. Valentines Day. Please mark the date on your calendar.

We are excited about the new bulletin board placed just inside the entrance at the McIntosh guardhouse. We have the Deer Creek Social Committee to thank for this. After obtaining the permission of Deer Creek’s BOD, the DCSC members spent many hours locating the right type of board and then finding someone to build and install it. Good work DCSC!

Please be sure to check the board periodically for dates of board meetings as well as social events in Deer Creek and the Villas.

As well as posting Villa social activities in our pool house bulletin boards, we will request the information be posted at the gate. Soooooo, no more excuses from anyone about not knowing we were planning a PAHTY at the pool!

Pat, Nancy & Joni

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**Future Events – planned by the DCSC:**  
(See The Trails for full information on the following events.)



A trip to the Hard Rock Casino in Tampa is in the works for Monday, February 5, 2007 – Herman Freese at 927-6805 is the contact person for the event. Please call him for information.

**January 25th is the cut-off date for all reservations.**

Don't miss a fun-filled day trip – make a reservation! Herman is waiting for your call!

A limited number of group tickets are available (at a discounted price) to the ballet "Last Call" at the Asolo Theatre on April 29, 2007.

Al & Sharron Mahan are the contact persons for this ballet. Phone: 929-7694.

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**Other Activities:**



**Silver Foxes 2007 Follies:**

Get together with friends and neighbors to enjoy a hilarious variety show of song, dance

and comedy at the Venice Little Theatre. Dory Kaiser a talented Villa resident, is assistant to the artistic director of the Foxes, and also writes, directs and performs for the group.

Performance dates are March 21, 22, 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM and March 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$18 or \$16 for groups of 20 or more.

Call the VLT box office at 488-1115 or go online at [www.venicestage.com](http://www.venicestage.com) to reserve your tickets. Make a night of it! Get a group of friends and neighbors together and take advantage of the reduced rate.

**FYI to all residents:**

Attached is the list of your 2007 Board Members, ARB members and Committee Chairs. Please keep the listing handy so that you will be able to contact the people who can help with action requests and replies to problems you might encounter. Please, for faster response, go through the proper committee and submit your Villas Action Request form to the proper people. We have provided the names of committee chairpersons and their e-mail addresses where available.

It is never an easy or simple chore doing committee work. The volunteers save the rest of us time and money by helping the community, so please show your appreciation by not verbally abusing these volunteers. Also, using the Villas Action Request form for non-emergency problems is better than a phone call. If you have access to e-mail, this is also a reasonable way to inform committee members of problems. Check the first page of the Villas Phone Directory for this information.

The following documents & publications are available on the Deer Creek website for viewing and printing: -

[www.deercreeksarasota.org](http://www.deercreeksarasota.org)

Just click on the tab to take you to the document. Some of the documents you can find are:

- Current & past copies of the Villas Voice and Trails

- Villas Paint Specifications
- Deer Creek Bylaws
- Architectural Covenants & Restrictions
- An approved vendor list of service companies and contractors.

This list is made up from Deer Creek homeowner's recommendations.

**A note for any residents planning to install hurricane protection shutters:** Sarasota County requires contractors to obtain a building permit prior to the installation of shutters. However, the first step is to obtain permission from your Architectural Review Board. Picking up a Villas Action Request Form at the Macintosh Guard House does this. Drop off the completed form in the tube of Ron Benice at 4452 DTB. Ron is the Chair of the Villas ARB Committee.

Please remember that this form is the first step in acquiring permission for ANY changes to the outside of your home. The form is also used for requests to the Landscape Committee & Irrigation Committee. You will find the names and phone numbers of the committee contacts on the front page of the Villas Phone Directory.

Again, we are taking this opportunity to remind both long time and new residents that the speed limit throughout Deer Creek is **25 mph**. Please, adhere to the posted signs. Some of our residents are out walking their dogs, or they themselves are walking in the roadway. We would like to feel safe in doing so. Thank you.

**Street Lights:**

Several of our streetlights were not working recently. If a light by your home is either out or constantly flickering, please inform Chairman Richard Tabor of the Streets & Structures Committee of the problem so that the light might be repaired or replaced. The information you will need to pass onto Richard is the location of the post and the ID number just above the base of the lamppost. Please send him e-mail at: [rtennis@att.net](mailto:rtennis@att.net)

**A note to our neighbors who have not supplied a phone number for the 2007 Phone Directory:** If you wish your number to be published in the 2007 Villas Directory, please

supply me with that number ASAP and it will be included in the new Directory. We hope to publish and deliver this in January.

Also, if your presently listed number has changed or you noticed an error, I would like to hear from you. There is still time.

Thank you.

Joni Rushforth @922-0094, or [jonirush@yahoo.com](mailto:jonirush@yahoo.com).

A sincere welcome to all our new neighbors. We hope you will enjoy living in the Villas. We look forward to meeting you all at our first 2007 social gathering to be held at the pool house on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. Please see the attached flyer for details.

Pat Koch has copies of the 2006 Deer Creek & 2006 Villas at Deer Creek Directories available. Please call her if you would like to have either or both. 921-1892.

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**Condolences:**

We are sad to announce the death of another Villa resident. Lin Schlossman of 4480 DTB passed away several days before Christmas. Lin's husband, Irwin, died earlier this year. Our condolences to the family on the loss of both parents in 2006.

We recently received the sad news of the death of Bob Iceman, a longtime resident of the Villas (4643 DTB). Bob contributed much to our community over the years and we will miss his cheerfulness, help and sound advice. Our sincere sympathies to Perie and family.

**Tip from Heloise:**

An easy and painless way to rid your mailbox and post of mold is to mix a half & half mixture of water and bleach, place it in a spray bottle, then spray. Rinse after 5 minutes or so. You can also get rid of the mold on your walkways and driveways with the same treatment. Leave the mixture on for 1/2 hour or so, then hose down.

**A Letter to Miss Manners:**

**Q:** Dear Ms. Manners: It seems that no matter how many times people are reminded it is a must to pick up after their dogs, certain people won't. How would you suggest approaching these offenders in a polite manner?

*Perplexed in Sarasota*

**A:** Dear *Perplexed in Sarasota*:

That's the way the world turns, dear. What I suggest is that you keep a sharp eye out for offenders. When you see this despicable event happening, run out with a plastic bag, hand it to the offender, that is the dog-owner of course, not the dog, and politely remark, "I do believe you forgot to bring a disposable bag along to collect your doggie's "do." Maybe this approach might work, but like real life, there are no "givens." Have a good day and good luck.

*Miss Manners*

Clark Southworth, Editor of the Trails, will publish free classified ads in the Trails for Deer Creek Residents – only. All one needs to do is e-mail the ad to:  
[clarktrials@version.net](mailto:clarktrials@version.net).

Clark will take care of the formatting. If he has any questions or problems with the ad, he will contact you. Clark will also confirm receipt of each ad.

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**Handy Home Helper:**

Mike Kaiser will clean your garages, patios and lanais. Also, he will put up your storm shutters, make minor household repairs, polish silver, do outdoor plantings, etc. Mike can be reached at - 962-0495.

