

TRAILS

DEER CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



August 2007

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Howard Pascoe



I can't ever remember in my entire lifetime when I would look up and wish for a black cloud to appear over my head. As I view our lakes and lawns, I constantly look up hoping for a sign of rain. Finally, in the last week the heavens opened up. I now feel there is hope on the horizon, which also means that maybe those homeowners who constantly violate the county's watering ordinance will at last comply with the regulation. By now, everyone knows when they are allowed to irrigate. Your neighbors call me complaining that some residents are watering all hours of the night and during the wrong watering day. "If they can do it and get away with it, why can't I? I'd love to have my lawn as green as theirs." I can't be a watchdog any longer. It takes too much of my time to monitor these violations. If you must, call 861-6790 for watering violations. Have the address, dates, times and frequency for enforcement personnel. Remember, the fine can be \$500 for each violation. Our water supply isn't forever. If we don't conserve, our taps can run dry.

The following policies regarding the Legacy Trail, formerly Rails to Trails, will be going through a public hearing which is to be scheduled:

Smoking in designated areas only, dogs ok, but on leashes, dusk to dawn hours of operation, no glass containers, bicyclists under 16 must wear helmets, Segways allowed, horses, golf carts and fireworks prohibited.

The mailboxes in Deer Creek have had their day. Some are broken, some deteriorated, some just crooked, but most just look tired. When we found out the costs to replace our present mailbox parts, it was shocking! Therefore, the Board approved an ad hoc committee to look into replacing our mailboxes with an attractive, sturdier, more practical unit for a reasonable cost. The committee did an outstanding job researching new mailboxes...considering stability, replaceability, aesthetics, low maintenance, address number reflectability and visibility, color and of course price. The committee found a local manufacturer, financially stable and in business for many years. They selected a box which meets all of the above criteria. The company will remove all of our present boxes and install each new box unit in concrete with a concrete pad to prevent weed wackers from damaging the base. The boxes may also be placed on your right of way, where you want it. The ad hoc committee, the legal committee, along with our treasurer is looking into the financing of this project.

Since the Woodbriar gate has been disabled, residents who normally use that gate have had to enter through the McIntosh gate.

Residents living on Deer Creek Blvd. have noticed that, since the Woodbriar gate has been closed, more cars have been speeding down their street in a hurry to get to where they are going. THE SPEED LIMIT IS 25 MPH. Please keep within this limit for the safety of all, even though the gate is being repaired. ♦

Notice of Next Board Meeting



The next regular meeting will be held at 2 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 25 at the Faith Lutheran Church on Beneva Road. Residents are always welcome to attend Board meetings.



EDITOR'S DESK

James E. Farnum

This most likely will be my last newsletter for the season. The October issue will be returned to the real editor-in-chief, Clark Southworth. I would just like to thank everyone who participates in the development of each newsletter. Their dedication and volunteerism are highly commendable. From the Board and Committee members who supply the articles, to the volunteers who proofread and those who distribute and deliver the newsletters. You've made my job easy and I thank you all for your help. It's been my pleasure to contribute to this process.

There will be no *Trails* newsletter for the month of September.

Please note that there are no classified ads in this issue.

If you have any questions, I can be contacted at:
farnumfoto@comcast.net

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 Cuffarro
Lakes & Animals	Dick Spayd
Rails to Trails (ad hoc)	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
<i>Trails</i> Distribution	Candi Messerschmidt
<i>Trails</i> Editor	Clark Southworth
Webmaster	Fred Rowley
Welcoming	Mary Ann Spayd
Gatehouse Captain	James Berry

(Your?) Cats on the prowl

Several cats have been observed wandering through Deer Creek, in particular in the Shadow Pine Way area. There is a gray long haired tabby and a black cat – along with several kittens.



If you are letting your cat out for a stroll, please be aware that it is causing some major problems for your fellow Deer Creek residents, who are keeping their pets in their home and on their lanai. Catfights have ensued, screens get ripped and other problems (urine spray) have resulted.

It is against County and Deer Creek regulations to let your pet roam free. So please....don't let your cat (or dog) out; you are causing problems for your neighbors! Thank you for your cooperation!

SARASOTA COMMISSION KILLS NO-MOW LAW

Howard Tisch



The Sarasota County Commission proposed a new law that would prohibit mowing of lawns within six feet of any body of water including lakes, ponds, creeks, rivers, etc. Among other things this would have allowed weeds and wild grasses to grow to any height around all of Deer Creek lakes and catfish creek.

In response to an unprecedented number of e-mail and phone complaints from Sarasota residents, the Commission voted to make the proposed law voluntary instead of mandatory thus saving our beautiful lake views and denying harborage to vermin, snakes and other undesirable wildlife adjacent to our waterfront homes.

The commission also postponed a law that would ban the use of fertilizer on lawns within 10 feet of a waterway from June 1 to October 1 in order to prevent runoff of chemicals that might add nutrients that could cause increased algae growth and deplete the oxygen in the water.

The chemicals that caused the most concern were nitrogen and phosphates than can cause damage to the ecosystem.

The fertilizer issue also resulted in much debate with professional, licensed lawn care companies claiming that the Commission did not fully understand how trained workers actually serviced lawns. One major firm testified that licensed firms do not use phosphates in Sarasota although residents that do their own work may be mis-applying chemicals bought at home and garden centers.

They also argued that banning the use of nitrogen during the six month warm season could result in more runoff rather than less. They claim that proper application of small amounts of timed release fertilizer, applied year round, is healthier for lawns and would obviate the need for larger applications just before and after the six month hiatus period.

The Commission voted to encourage residents to change to low maintenance landscaping such as Japanese and rock gardens and indigenous Florida plants that require less watering and fertilization. This type of landscaping is presently not allowed in many communities, including Deer Creek, but it may be required in new developments.

Commission hearings are open to the public and any person wishing to speak is given from 3 to 5 minutes to present their arguments. Gwen Wilson attended the hearing with me to represent Deer Creek but we did not testify as the No-Mow law was defeated early in the hearing.



LAKES, WATERWAYS & ANIMALS*Dick Spayd*

While we have had rain for about a half hour each of the last few days, we have not seen any increase in the level of water in our lakes. We still need a number of full days of rain in order to fill our lakes. At the moment we are supplementing the water in 11 of our lakes by pumping from the Trunk Canal. The placement of two of our pumps are sufficiently submerged in the water that we

can keep them running every day. However, the pump at Lake 1-1 requires sufficient water in the Trunk Canal so that we do not burn out the motor in that pump. Therefore, we monitor the depth of the water frequently and sometimes have to turn off the pump at the weir at Lake 1-1. We do not have any means for supplementing water in the other six lakes. We therefore must rely on the rains.

**STREETS & STRUCTURES****Roads**

A special thank you is extended to Doug Lang who assisted committee members in repairing asphalt cracks on Sandy Oak Lane.

The hurricane season is here and residents are encouraged to remove debris from our road drains in order to prevent street flooding.

Please contact me at rttennis@att.net if you have questions or concerns regarding streets and structures.

Street Lights

The Streets and Structures Committee surveyed our community and discovered seven street lights either out or not properly functioning. Repairs were made by members after replacing fuses, photo-electric cells, ballasts, and bulbs.

Gates*Richard Tabor*

After thirteen years of service, the gate operator at the Woodbriar gate recently failed and a new operator was installed by a contractor. The decal scanner at this location subsequently experienced problems with condensation after an internal fan ceased functioning and was returned to the manufacturer for repairs. Members of the Streets and Structures Committee reinforced the gate operator with new bolts at the McIntosh gate after the base support was found to be loose.

Street Signs

Due to deterioration, committee members installed new street signs in the Villas. Members also painted the stop signs at the intersection of Deer Trail Boulevard and Deer Creek Boulevard.

R. Webber Inc., a paver company, recently reimbursed Deer Creek for damages done to community property and is again approved to enter our gated community.

BOARD ACTIONS

Howard Pascoe



The following resolutions were passed at the July 24, 2007 Board Meeting:

The Board unanimously approved a motion to reinvest a Reserve CD in the amount of \$101,000 at the best rate available.

The Board passed a new boating policy to replace the existing policy set forth in the November 2006 Deer Creek Policies and Practices. Two members of the Board abstained. The new policy can be found under Rules and Regulations on page 6.



REAL ESTATE CORNER

Isabella DeJohn

Pretty much the same scenario as my last report, a very slow time right now! Eleven houses and eight villas are listed for sale. One more house will be added for sale this week: a three to four bedroom, two and a half bath just under 3000 square foot, very light, open Todd Johnson built house with a long lake view for \$659,000!

One house has sold. 4475 White Egret Lane was listed in February for \$815,000 and has closed this month at \$762,000. It is 3360 square feet, three bedrooms with den, three full baths-beautifully updated with many quality features and a lovely lake view. Sold at \$225 per square foot.



(Some information derived from The Sarasota Association of Realtors)



ISABELLA PHILLIPS DEJOHN
REALTOR WITH CROWN PROPERTIES GROUP
918-1944

RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Philip S. Mentz



BOATING POLICY • Adopted by Board of Directors July 24, 2007

The following boating policy replaces the existing policy set forth in the November 2006 DEER CREEK POLICIES AND PRACTICES.

Boating on the lakes is permitted with the following restrictions.

- 1) Boating is restricted to watercraft owned or rented by Deer Creek residents or family members.
- 2) Resident watercraft must be registered with Deer Creek.
- 3) While on the water watercraft must have on board the registered resident or a family member. Guests may accompany a resident.
- 4) All watercraft entering Deer Creek must use the McIntosh gate and clear entry with the gate officer.
- 5) Watercraft rented by a resident may be admitted for a stated period with a gate pass.
- 6) Watercraft, except canoes, are limited to 14 feet in overall length.
- 7) Canoes may be up to 16 feet in length.
- 8) No motors except electric trolling type are permitted.
- 9) All watercraft must be out of the water and stored out of sight each day before nightfall.
- 10) Boating is done at the owner's risk. DCCA assumes no responsibility nor liability for any losses or claims.

Several reminders this month

The long drought has made it difficult to maintain one's landscaping and still abide by the watering restrictions. The R&R committee has taken this situation into account when issuing citations for poor landscaping.

There have been violations of the covenant which prohibits overnight parking on the street. The covenant states that overnight parking on the street is prohibited, irrespective of the number of visitors at the address.

There have been complaints of barking dogs, usually those confined to the lanai in the absence of the owner. Citations are issued for "nuisance pet".

To repeat a previous notice. A bar code on a vehicle requires that it be garaged. If driveway parking is needed for a student, a student pass must be obtained and the bar code removed from the vehicle. Student status does not affect the requirement to garage a bar coded vehicle.

A revised boating policy, adopted by the Board of Directors at the July meeting, appears above. The new policy replaces the previous one, incorporates several existing provisions and adds some new ones.

DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT



In accordance with Deer Creek Development Standards and Architectural Requirements (now posted on the Deer Creek Web Site (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 July 20, 2007.

8539 Woodbriar Dr. -
Approved removal of Magnolia tree and replace with Shady Lady of approx. same size.

8552 Woodbriar Dr. -
Approved planting of 2 Crape Myrtle trees, 1 Hibiscus and 1 Viburnum.

8679 Woodbriar Dr. -
Approved installation of new roof.

4401 White Cedar Tr. -
Approved installation of new roof.

Howard Pascoe

8652 Woodbriar Dr. -
Approved removal of dead Pine tree from side of house.

8492 Woodbriar Dr. -
Approved planting of Royal Poinciana tree on front lawn.

8552 Woodbriar Dr. -
Approved planting Sweet Viburnum on left side property line.

4462 Deer Creek Blvd. -
Approved removal of diseased Pygmy Palm from inside of pool cage area.



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

Assessment Reminder

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.

NEW WATERING RULES IN EFFECT

Sarasota County residents on properties *2 acres or less* in size may water only:

- **Before 8:00 AM or after 6:00 PM (once a day)**
 - **Even number addresses may water on Tuesdays only**
 - **Odd number addresses on Thursdays only**
- (There are different rules for our common grounds)*



★ *This will be available for making payments of the October 1 Assessments* ★

ACCEPTING PAYMENTS ONLINE

Homeowners now have the convenience of making payments online!

Now your association can accept payments over the Internet by credit card from our Web site, www.colonialbank.com! Our optional online payment service allows associations to accept homeowner payments online by using MasterCard®, Discover® and MasterCard Debit. Your association receives timely, automatic credit directly to your depository account.

GETTING STARTED

How can I accept payments online for my association?

To accept payments online, you must enroll in Colonial Bank Association Services Online Payment System and sign an agreement. This agreement enables your homeowners to make payments online by credit card through Colonial Bank's Web site, www.colonialbank.com.

Do I need a credit card merchant account to process credit card transactions?

A merchant account is not required to process electronic payments made by credit card. All payments made online are credited to the association's assigned account to receive lockbox payments. Colonial Bank Association Services must be your lockbox payment processor in order to use the Online Payment System.

How will I know when my homeowners can make payments online?

You will receive a confirmation by e-mail or U.S. mail once your association is set up to accept payments online.

Is there a fee to offer this service to my homeowners?

To cover the cost of providing payment services online, homeowners will be charged a non-refundable convenience fee based on a percentage of the transaction. The convenience fee is 3 percent of the transaction amount. The non-refundable convenience fee is charged by the bank for the convenience of processing the payment online; the association or management company will not receive credit for the fee.

How long does it take to receive funds after my transactions are submitted?

All payments are processed within two business days. Payments initiated before 2 p.m. ET are processed the next business day. Payments initiated after 2 p.m. ET are processed in two business days. A business day is any day other than Saturday or Sunday, that is neither a legal holiday nor a day on which commercial banks are authorized nor required to be closed.

MANAGING PAYMENTS

How will online payments by credit card appear on my bank statement or online banking?

Payments initiated online by credit card daily and ACH, Association Pay deposits will appear with the descriptor ELEC DEPOSIT (Electronic) on your bank statement and online banking.

Payments received via coupon continue to be identified by COUPON DEPOSIT.

How will online payments by credit card appear on my activity file or report?

Online payments by credit card will appear with the payments received by coupon on daily files and reports. You will not receive a separate file or report for payments made through the online payment system. You will continue to receive a separate file and/or report for payments made by Association Pay (ACH Debit).

How do I identify transaction type?

When check numbers are supplied in the daily activity file or report, payments received via online by credit card are identified in the check number field by check No. 2.

Association Pay payments received are identified in the check number field by check No. 1.

Can I view an image of payments made online by credit card?

Images for payments made online by credit card through the online payment system are available through Web Vault. A receipt image showing the homeowner information and amount paid is detailed for each payment. Credit card information is not stored by the bank or included with the receipt image



MAKING A PAYMENT

How does the homeowner make a payment online?

From the main page of the Colonial Bank Web site, www.colonialbank.com, click the following links:

1. Select Account
2. Online Payments

Which credit cards are accepted online?

Homeowners can make their payment online using MasterCard, Discover or MasterCard Debit. Due to costs associated with the Online Payment System and the rules governed by individual credit card companies, some card types are unavailable at this time.

For more information contact:
Colonial Bank Association Services
 (727) 549-1202
 Toll free (888) 722-6669



Revised 09/2006

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS*Dee Forsyth & Nancy Zeman*

Thanks to Susan Sole for organizing the August Ladies Luncheon at First Watch.

Please mark your calendars now for the next **Ladies Luncheon** on Thursday, September 6. We will meet at J. Ryans (8389 S. Tamiami Trail) at 12:00. Please call Sandy Twyon (921-6022) or e-mail (stwyon@att.net) by Sept. 4 to let her know if you plan to attend. We will each order from the menu. Everyone is welcome; hope to see you there.

Our next **Deer Creek Mixer** will be held on Friday, September 28, from 6-8 PM, at the home of Kathy and Jay Olin, 4531 Eagle Ridge Lane. Please call the Olins at 926-9171 to make your reservations. Please bring your own beverage of

choice, an appetizer to share, and \$1 per person to cover the costs of paper goods and mixes. Come and meet your neighbors.

The Welcome Back Snowbirds Party will be a **sunset cruise aboard Le Barge** on Wednesday, October 17. The entire boat has been chartered exclusively for Deer Creek residents and their guests. Reservations are \$30 per person. (A reservation form is included with this issue of *Trails* on page 12.)

Sunday evening, December 9, is the date for the **Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular** at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Reservations for this very popular show including bus transportation will be \$90 per person. (A reservation form is included with this issue of *Trails* on page 10.)

The annual **Deer Creek Holiday Party** will again be held at TPC at Prestancia on Thursday, December

13. The evening will include a cocktail hour with passed hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar; a three-course dinner; and music for your dancing and listening pleasure. Reservations for this popular event will be \$55 per person. (A reservation form will be in a future issue of *Trails*.)

If you would like to play **mah jongg** or would like to learn, call Pat Krug at 927-5062 for information.

Mixers: Please call Charlotte Emerson (924-4572) to host a mixer at your home. There is no cost to you. All those attending are asked to bring their own beverages, an appetizer to share, and \$1 to cover any costs.

The Deer Creek Social Committee meets monthly to plan events for Deer Creek residents and their friends. No Deer Creek funds are used to pay for these events. If you have ideas for new activities or events, please call one of the committee members.

Social Opportunities at a Glance:

- Sept. 6 Ladies Lunch – Sandy Twyon (921-6022)
- Sept. 28 Mixer – Kathy & Jay Olin (926-9171)
- October 17 Le Barge Sunset Cruise – Greg Goebel (927-8309)
- December 9 Radio City Rockettes Show in Tampa – Herman Freese (927-6805)
- December 13 Holiday Party at Prestancia

Ongoing:

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

RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

Starring the Rockettes



THE ROCKETTES ARE BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Direct from New York City, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular makes a triumphant return to the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Most famous for their eye high kicks and precision dancing, the Rockettes thrilled more than 120,000 patrons during their Tampa debut in 2003. This live production has dazzling scenery, costumes and lighting, as well as a cast and crew of nearly 100 members, including Santa Claus himself. Time Magazine calls it, "One of the Grandest Holiday Traditions in the U.S. ...Bring the Whole Family!" **Guests are welcome.**

WHEN: Sunday-December 9, 2007

TIME: 7:30 PM – 10:15 PM

COST: \$90.00 per person – Price includes ticket and bus

Excellent reserved seating. First come, first serve.

The bus will leave from the Villas Pool Parking Lot at 5:00 PM and will return about 11:30 PM. For more information, call Herman Freese at 927-6805.

Make checks payable to – Deer Creek Social Committee. Checks, along with the reservation form, can be either mailed or dropped off at Herman Freese’s at 8033 Bobcat Circle.

Reservation deadline is October 1, 2007.

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Reservation Form for “Radio City Christmas Spectacular”-Dec 9, 2007

Name(s): _____

Address & Contact’s Phone Number: _____

Number of tickets @ \$90.00 per person _____

People wishing to sit together _____

Deer Creek LeBarge Tropical Cruise

October 17, 2007, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Cost only \$30 per person!

Board 200 yards south of Marina Jack restaurant.



Deer Creek celebrates the return of fall with a private LeBarge Sunset Cruise on October 17th. Boarding begins at 6:00 pm and we depart at 6:30 pm sharp.

Enjoy dancing, hors d'oeuvres, and your favorite cold beverage! During this two-hour cruise, keep your eyes open for dolphins at play and see if you can catch the legendary "green flash" as the sun dips below the horizon.

See Reservation Form Attached.

This cruise is for all ages! Kids welcomed and encouraged. Friends and family welcome! Limited seating so reply soon!



**DEER CREEK LeBARGE
TROPICAL CRUISE
OCTOBER 17, 2007**



Reservation Form

Cost: \$30 per person — includes dancing, hors d'oeuvres and a sunset cruise on a boat reserved exclusively for Deer Creek residents and their guests

Please send reservation by *October 10, 2007*

Mail or drop off reservation form to:

Dee Forsyth, 8326 Cypress Hollow Drive

Phone: 927-1355



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Name _____

Phone _____

Number of Tickets @ \$30 per person _____

Total Enclosed _____

Make checks payable to: *Deer Creek Social Committee*