



Bell Tower Property Owner Association's

BELL TOWER NOTES

POA ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

Special points of interest:

- Annual meeting results for all 4 BTP Boards
- A new, draft emergency preparedness plan under review
- Lakes Park showcased
- BTP wildlife articles continue
- Information on the new CAM, CAM office location and CAM's administrative assistant

By Suzanne Ferguson

The Annual Meeting of the BTP Property Owners' Association was held March 20th, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Clubhouse Annex. As this was the first annual meeting since the turnover to the residents by the developer, there were two major issues before the Association: 1) a By-Laws change to increase the number of Board members from the original three to five; and 2) a new State statute requirement to allow us to implement our By-Laws' staggered two-year terms for the Board. The advantages of such continuity seem pretty obvious, with some directors elected in even years and the others in odd years.

The change to 5 members was overwhelmingly passed. Unfortunately, the larger quorum required by the State for the establishment of staggered

terms (50% of owners plus 1) was not met. The Association will reconvene on April 9th to finalize the results after further efforts to obtain the required number of votes. **So, please turn in your proxy if you haven't yet done so.**

Although originally there were six candidates, former president Sandy Archer withdrew her name, and conse-

quently those who were left on the slate were elected by default. In the organizational meeting, these individuals decided their positions on the Board. David Barnes will be President, John Davenport will be Vice-President, Don Boreman will be Treasurer, Richard Roux will be Secretary and Timothy Kidd will serve as a Director. □



The 2012 Annual POA meeting attracted an overflow of attendees.

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CARRIAGE HOMES ANNUAL MEETING

By Suzanne Ferguson

The largest of the Bell Tower Park sub-associations, Carriage Homes, held its annual meeting Monday, March 19th. Re-elected to the board were its President, Robert Gar-

land, Vice-President David Barnes, and Secretary Elaine Kustra.

President Robert Garland has served on the Carriage Homes' Board for four years. He relocated to Fort Myers from Lex-

ington, Kentucky in 2005 and currently serves as Managing Director of Southeast Operations for Greeley and Hansen, a national engineering firm specializing in the planning, design, construction, and operation of water and **See CARRIAGE HOMES, P 2. ➤**

POA BOARD BACKGROUND INFORMATION



NEW POA BOARD MEMBERS (left to right): DON BOREMAN, DAVID BARNES, JOHN DAVENPORT, TIMOTHY KIDD AND RICHARD ROUX.

“The new Board will try to get an informational e-mail out after every Board meeting so all the residents will know what’s happening in our Community.”

-David Barnes, President

David Barnes (President) has been treasurer and vice-president for the POA and Carriage Homes Boards at BTP. Formerly, he has been president, vice president, treasurer or secretary for five different Homeowners/Condo Associations over the past twenty-five years. He has a background in business management and is retired from the U.S. Army. Dave and Cathy moved here three years ago from New Hampshire and say they think Bell Tower Park is the paradise reward of retirement.

Donald Boreman (Treasurer) is a retired commercial banker with forty years experience at three large financial institutions, whose position involved analyzing financial statements, structuring loans, developing investment banking products, reviewing legal documents, negotiating contracts and approving loans. He has a BS degree in Economics and an MBA from Farleigh Dickinson University. Over the past year Don has served on the Building and Amenities and Finance Committees.

John Davenport (Vice-President) was appointed to the POA Board in November of 2011 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of the developer’s representative at turnover. John has resided here for almost two years; earlier, he served 31 years in the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office in Punta Gorda, where he was Sheriff for the final four years. He holds degrees in Criminology and Public Administration. Prior to his appointment to the Board, he headed the Security Committee, as they oversaw the review and engagement of **Envera Services**.

Timothy Kidd (Director) is a former superintendent for WCI and project manager for Mercedes Homes. Tim was a Bell Tower Park Board Member from 2007-2011, and during that time was very active in the resolution of the Chinese Drywall problem. He spearheaded engineering inspections of all the BTP Courtyard Homes prior to turnover as well as a wind mitigation study that lowered insurance costs. He also serves on the Courtyard I Board.

Richard Roux (Secretary) is a retired Senior Program Manager for the Department of Army who has been involved in many major programs including the design and construction of major industrial facilities, International Arms Control, Homeland Defense, environmental programs, and acquisition of soldier equipment. His Chemical Engineering degrees are from the University of Connecticut. Since moving into BTP in March 2011 Richard has volunteered on the Communications, Finance, and Building and Amenities Committees. He may be best-known as our community WEB Master. Prior to moving here he was an officer of his HOA in Maryland for 12 years. □

CARRIAGE HOMES FROM P. 1



CARRIAGE HOME BOARD MEMBERS (left to right): ELAINE KUSTRA, DAVID BARNES AND ROBERT GARLAND.

wastewater facilities for federal, state, and municipal clients.

A graduate of Vanderbilt University, Robert is a professional engineer, professional geologist, and certified contractor in numerous states throughout the southeast, and currently serves on the Executive Committee for the Florida Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) and is Chairman of the Southwest Florida Branch of APWA.

He is active in many civic organizations, including the Ro-

tary Club of Fort Myers; and he is a graduate of Leadership Lee County, on whose Steering Committee he has served. Robert and his wife Jane have called Bell Tower Park home for 7 years.

Elaine Kustra hails from New England (Massachusetts and New Hampshire) and was an elementary school teacher and assistant principal in the same school for 32 years before retiring and moving to Sanibel. Her education degrees are from Salem State College.

Restless in retirement, Elaine began volunteering, first at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit then the Public Relations Office at Healthpark. She continued volunteering when she moved to Bell Tower Park in 2005, first on the Landscape Committee, then on the Security and Social Committees. She served four years as the appointed secretary for Carriage Homes.

David Barnes’ background is given under the POA Board Information, shown above □

COURTYARD HOMES I NEWS: QUORUM STILL NEEDED

By Suzanne Ferguson and Richard Roux

Courtyard I failed to get enough attendees and proxies to be able to hold an annual meeting and to conduct any of its business. Members will be solicited for proxies in advance of a second attempted meeting, scheduled for May 3, 2012.

However, as there were three people who submitted their names to be on the Board for The Courtyard Homes at Bell Tower Park there was no need for an election. The three Board members are as follows:

Robert Van Teeffelen, President/Treasurer, has been active in our Community for a number of years. A homeowner here since June 2006, Robert has been the President of The Courtyard I Homes Association for the past year and prior to that served as Treasurer for two years.

Timothy Kidd, Vice President, has lived in Bell Tower Park since 2005. Tim was a Bell Tower Park POA Board Member from 2007-2011. He has rejoined the POA Board this spring, and a slightly fuller biographical note appears under POA Board Information.

David Morgan, Secretary, was first appointed to the Courtyard I Board in December 2011 to fill a term that expired in March 2012. His professional background was spent in the telecommunications industry. David worked for the Indiana division of Sprint as General Manager of the Network Maintenance Department. He was responsible for managing the maintenance operations for all the Central Office Switching and Transmission Equipment within the state of Indiana. After 26 years at Sprint, David took an early retirement in March 2000 and says he has enjoyed each and every day since.

David and his wife Rita moved into Bell Tower Park in April 2007, after having a condo on Ft. Myers Beach for a number of years. David has been an avid advocate for improved landscaping. □



COURTYARD I BOARD MEMBERS (left to right): DAVID MORGAN, TIMOTHY KIDD AND ROBERT VAN TEEFFELEN.

COURTYARD HOMES II NEWS

By Suzanne Ferguson

Courtyard II Homes Association of Bell Tower Park held its annual meeting the afternoon of March 12th. A quorum was established by use of proxies. The 5 candidates, who had all served on the prior Board, were reelected by acclamation.

The minutes from the 2011 meeting were not available, so their approval was postponed. Some old business was discussed, but the main purpose of the meeting having been achieved, the meeting ended.

The continuing Board for Courtyard II are the following:

David Shaw, President. David has served on the BTP Courtyard II Board since its founding at turnover in 2006, initially as Secretary. When the first president moved away and the vice-

president resigned, he became president and has served since 2007.

David and his wife Alicia relocated to Florida from Washington State, where David retired from a successful career as a public school superintendent. David currently volunteers as a scholarship reader for the Southwest Florida Foundation and is a board member of two other organizations engaged in providing scholarships to promising students.

Tim Archer, Vice President, a resident of BTP since July 2005, has served on BTP II Board since 2007 and has prepared most BTP II Budgets since 2008. He runs a small software development company.

Paula Castallo, Secretary, moved to Bell Tower Park in 2005 and has served on the BTP Courtyard II Board since 2006 as the Board Secretary. She also served on the former Landscape Committee.



COURTYARD II BOARD MEMBERS (left to right): MARTHA SHAFFER, DAVID SHAW, TIM ARCHER, PAULA CASTALLO, AND BILL WALDAU.

Bill Waldau, Treasurer, has been on the BTP II Board for four of the five years it has been in existence, and has lived in BTP since it opened. He also served on, and chaired, the Landscape Committee for two and a half years prior to its recent dissolution.

Martha Schaffer is the fifth Director. □

LAKES PARK, A JEWEL IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



By Marion Cassie

We who live at Bell Tower Park are lucky to have such a beautiful multi-purpose park so close to us. The main entrance to Lakes Park is on Gladiolus Dr. a little over 1/2 mile west of the intersection with U.S. 41.

Originally wetland, then the site of extensive gladiolus farming fields, the Lakes Park property held a rock quarry during the 1960's. The land was purchased by Lee County in 1978. This 279-acre facility features 158 acres of freshwater lake fed by a natural spring and numerous islands left from the quarry period. The park contains approximately 2.5 miles of paved or natural paths for walking, jogging, biking, and most other non-motorized activities.

Lakes Park has a little bit of everything. It's a great walking and biking park with numerous recreational areas, picnic pavilions, and two water activity sites for young children. There is a train museum and a train-themed playground, plus a miniature narrow-gauge railway parents and children can ride around the park. Holiday decorations enhance the ride during Halloween, Christmas, and Easter.

Since Hurricane Charlie opened up large areas of the park by blowing down many of the aging, invasive Australian Pines, staff and volunteers have established a community garden where you can rent a plot to exercise your green thumb, a cactus and succulent garden, a fragrance garden, a butterfly garden, and free Wi-Fi hotspots for internet access. A rose garden is planned.

Entrance to the park is free, but parking is \$1 per hour or \$5 per day. There are 2 commercial food concession stands that also offer rentals of bikes, tandem surreys for the entire family, canoes, kayaks, and paddleboats. There is a charge to get into the train museum and to ride the mini-railroad.

On Fridays from 9 am until 1 pm from the beginning of November until the end of April, there is a delightful seasonal farmers' market with lots of interesting vendors selling everything from orchids and other plants to delicious local vegetables and fruits, fresh fish, prepared meat products, clothing, and baked goods.

A favorite activity of many locals is to drop by at the end of the day to watch the big flocks of wading birds coming in to roost for the night on the remote park islands where they feel safe. (Please note that dogs are not allowed in Lakes Park.)

To read the complete information about Lakes Park on your computer go to: <http://www.leeparks.org/pdf/Lakes-Park-Booklet.pdf> . You can see many more photos on the BTP WEB site. □



"Lakes Park has a little bit of everything..... for everybody."



RECYCLING (PART 2): Good for the Environment – Good for our Pocketbooks

By Marion Cassie

In the February *Bell Tower Notes* I covered some general issues regarding recycling in our community. The following addresses some waste items that require special treatment:

Plastic grocery and produce sacks: These bags are not accepted for recycling by Lee County, but are collected at many local grocery stores in recycling bins specifically for that purpose.

Bulky Waste: Residents requiring bulky waste (such as a large piece of furniture or an appliance) to be picked up should call WastePro at 239-368-2300 to schedule a special pick-up.

Electronics: TVs, computer systems, stereo systems, video equipment and microwaves can be placed at the curb near the regular household garbage for collection at our regularly scheduled Monday collection time. However, electronics cannot be picked up with the regular

household garbage. A yellow tag left on the device indicates that the driver of the garbage truck made note of the address for the pickup. These addresses are turned in to the route supervisor who schedules a separate vehicle that will collect the item (s) the following day.

Hazardous Batteries: All rechargeable Nickel-Cadmium and Lithium batteries used in items like cordless telephones, camcorders, power tools, cordless appliances, toys, and laptop computers are all recyclable, but they should be placed in a clear plastic bag NEXT to your recycling bin or taken to the Household Chemical Waste Facility at 6441 Topaz Court off Metro Parkway between Colonial Blvd. and Daniels Pkwy. near Crystal Drive.

Household Chemical Waste (HCW): Wastes that are ignitable, corrosive, explosive or toxic, such as ammunition, automotive fluids, boat flares, car and boat batteries, fertilizer, pesticides, polishes and floor cleaners, pool chemicals, propane tanks, photo chemicals, paints and compact florescent bulbs, are the most common household chemical wastes that

need to be disposed of properly at the HCW drop-off facility. Questions? Call the Solid Waste Division @ (239) 533-8000.

Prescription Drugs: These are not collected by our local contract collection agency and should not be placed with household garbage or recyclables. Excess pills, inhalers, prescription creams and the like can be taken to the County Sheriff's Office drop-off boxes Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. Call the Sheriff's Office at (239) 477-1000 for locations. NO SYRINGES – These must be taken to an approved "Sharps container" at a local Fire Department or area Health Department Office.

Again, this and much more information can be found in the 2012 Calendar distributed by Lee County Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery which was delivered to every Bell Tower Park residence in January. If you lost your copy, you can pick one up at the Topaz Court facility when you go there to drop off your hazardous waste! (There is a lot of Lee County history written up in the calendar, also.) □

GARAGE SALE A HIT!

By Richard Roux

Our first Community garage sale was held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb 25th. Sponsored and coordinated by our Communication Committee's WEB Master, the event evolved in response to our very first WEB site survey, where 19 of 21 responders liked the idea.

The primary criteria for the sale were: (1) no loss of security; and (2) minimally disruptive to everyone. Thus the sale was limited to residents

and held out of individuals' garages, marked by red ribbons on the carriage lamps or mailboxes. The main objectives of the sale were to: (1) promote neighbors' meeting neighbors ; (2) get residents more familiar with the potential of the WEB site; and (3) the sale of items.

Despite early morning rain, the weather cleared by sale time, and with 25 homes participating, the event seemed to go very well. Feedback included comments on how friendly peo-

ple were and how much fun it was to make the rounds and find "treasures."

The WEB Master's only disappointment was that none of our residents put the requested post-event feedback on the WEB site's "MESSAGE BOARD." We'd still like to see some postings there so that we can get an idea if the community would like to see future garage sales, and what could be done to make such an event even more satisfying. Please provide your thoughts!

□



**DON AND LIANNA BOREMAN...
HARD AT WORK!**

PREPARING FOR AN EMERGENCY



STORM SURGE IS A REAL THREAT TO MUCH OF THE FORT MYERS AREA.

“Our potential susceptibility to hurricane damage from storm surge may be greater than understood by the community.”



WIND, FLOODING RAIN AND STORM SURGE PROVIDE A HURRICANE'S TRIPLE THREAT.

By Richard Roux

An Emergency Preparedness Plan has been drafted and is currently under review by management and the POA Board, directed toward natural disasters that may impact Bell Tower Park residences. This plan has been prepared internally by the Building & Amenities Committee to aid in our Associations' execution of their responsibilities to operate the property for the health, safety, comfort and general welfare of the unit owners, and is based on emergency planning and operations data available from Federal, State and County emergency planning organizations.

The draft plan discusses emergency planning for three events: hurricane; tornado; and wild fire. It suggests both long-range preparations and the actions needed immediately before the event. This plan does not yet discuss post-event recovery operations, which will be dealt with in future planning efforts.

The three kinds of events were chosen from a master list of 33 emergency events furnished by Lee County as most likely to impact our community. Generation of this plan has opened coordination channels with representatives of Lee County emergency planning, who have agreed to review our plan and come on-site to educate the community on hurricanes at a Town Meeting May 7th of this year (details will be posted on the WEB site and sent out by e-mail blast, as well as flyers on bulletin boards).

The most significant emergency event for which we must plan is a hurricane. While BTP has excellent construction standards, it is in the top-rated flood zone “X” and is just a few miles from the Gulf beaches and low-lying tidal estuaries. FEMA’s latest surge projections, based on hurricanes Ike, Charlie and Katrina, indicate that BTP is potentially vulnerable to significant surge damage. Surge is defined as a combination of tide and storm-displaced seas. We are rated in zone X because of our proximity to tidal creeks, and that rating is reflected in BTP’s recently being put into Lee County evacuation ZONE B (second group to evacuate, after the beaches). This rating may well influence residents’ consideration of owner-purchased, low cost Federal Flood Insurance, which up to now they may have deemed unnecessary.

Review of BTP’s “plans & drawings” and the latest FEMA storm surge modeling suggests that a CAT II hurricane coming in from the Gulf, directly hitting BTP with 96-110 mile per hour winds could generate up to 15.5 feet of surge (above normal sea level), flooding our first floor units, which are at an elevation of approximately 12.5-13.5 ft. above sea level, with 2-3 feet of storm water. This flooding could last for days; building renovation would be required prior to residents’ return. The probability of occurrence for such a hurricane is unpredictable. A direct hit from a CAT III storm coming off the Gulf in could have even more seri-

ous effect.

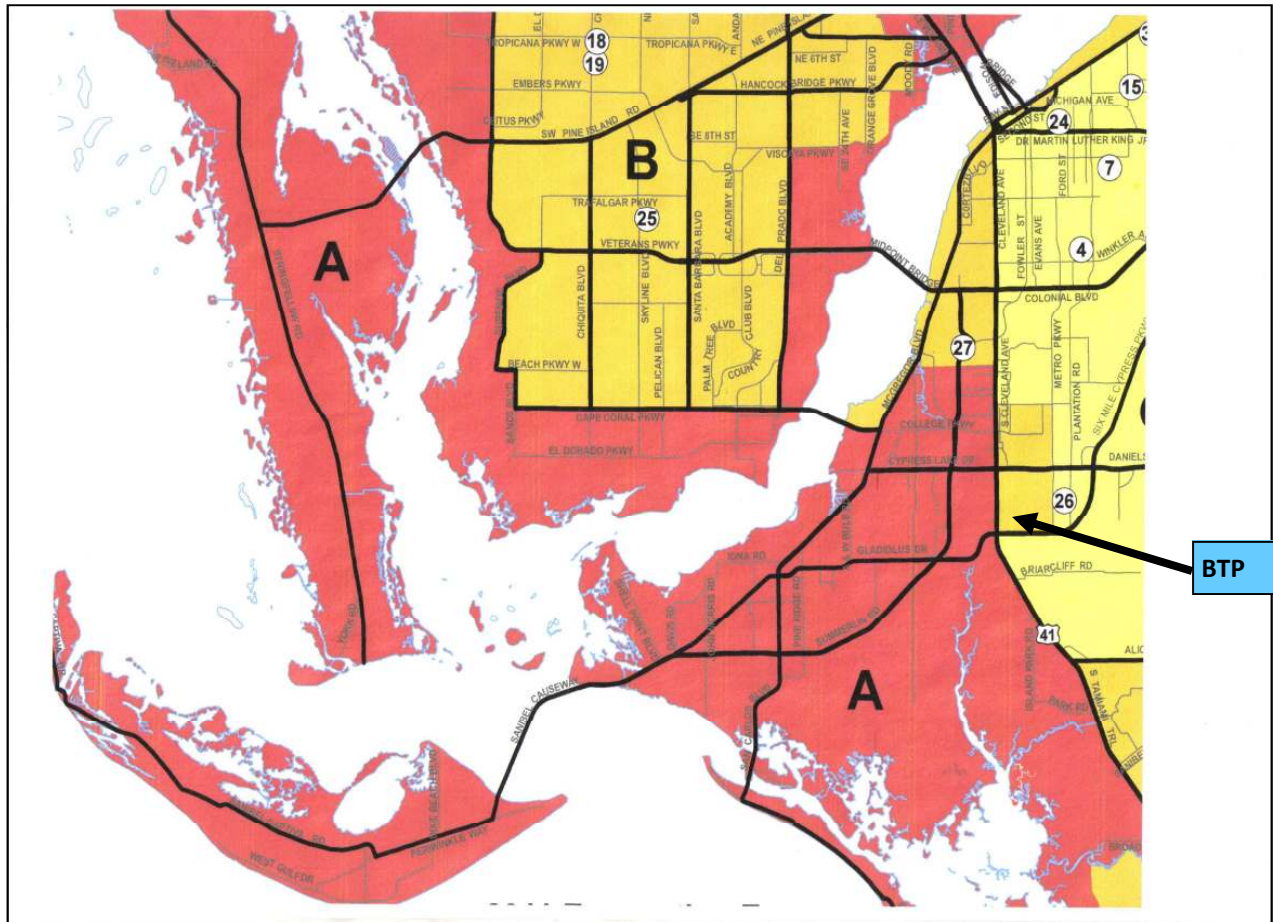
To better address such an event, a number of straightforward capabilities can be established in the community (e.g. Emergency Operation Center [EOC], communication links, etc.), and a timetable and checklist of potential protective actions can be implemented immediately prior to a pending event to mitigate damage. Besides suggesting these, our draft plan reminds homeowners of their long-term and pre-event responsibilities to prepare their units and also to complete their personal “**FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN.**”

The other two events discussed in the plan are wild-fire and tornado. The possibility of wildfires comes from our adjacent preserves. Tornadoes, while fairly rare and weak in Southwest Florida, are a possibility here and should not be ignored. Long-range and immediately prior actions are also suggested for these events.

The draft plan concluded:

- While the 3 types of disasters may be infrequent, they are credible.
- Potential susceptibility to hurricane damage from storm surge may be greater than understood by the community.
- The order to evacuate will likely come well in advance of the storm because of the size of the population to be moved. Unfortunately, this may lead residents to delay their departure. Resultant traffic problems could

See EMERGENCY PLANNING, P. 7 ➤



Part of Lee County’s Hurricane Evacuation Map showing BTP in gold-colored Evacuation Zone B. (The complete map and more background information on hurricanes are now posted on the BTP WEB site under “EMERGENCY PLANNING.”)

EMERGENCY PLANNING from P. 6

- become significant, particularly since the County’s new evacuation plan has never been exercised.
- Resident education could safeguard lives and have our residents make better decisions on safeguarding and insuring their property.
- The only way to be fully

prepared for a hurricane evacuation is to stay well informed and start preparations early. Unfortunately this may mean taking what later turn out to be unnecessary precautions. Hurricane evacuations remain a mixture of art and science, and every storm scenario is unique.

Additional plan information should be available to residents by May 1st, in advance of the May 7th hurricane education session conducted by Lee County’s Director of Emergency Planning. Interested residents should plan to attend. This information will be posted on the BTP WEB site. □

*Lee County’s
Director of
Emergency Planning
will be here at BTP, 7
PM, Monday Evening
May 7th.*

TIKI HUT POOL PARTY ROCKS!

By Greg Harrie for the BTP Social Committee

The third major Bell Tower Park social event of the season took place Sunday, March 25th from 3-7 p.m., as nearly 100 “beachcombers” dressed in their finest island attire gathered at the theme-decorated Clubhouse Pool Deck. An abundance of island and classic “oldies” music was provided for dancing and general enjoyment by Royal DJ Services. (In addition to the photos here, there is an entire album on the WEB site.)

Rhea’s Party and Event Planning catered a scrumptious picnic meal featuring hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and hot-dogs with kraut; potato, pasta, and tossed salads; amazing mango salsa and guacamole for nachos; fresh fruit, and cookies. The libations of beer, wine, and tropical drinks flowed freely, loosening up participants for a rousing – yet nimble – limbo contest, won by the amazingly flexible mystery guest in red. The luckiest winner of the night was Lou Martinez, who took home \$105 as the prize from the 50/50 raffle, but there were several door-prize winners of bottles of champagne, as well.

The Social Committee would like to thank all those who attended the function, as well as Dixie and Karen in the BTP Office for collecting RSVPs; and to thank in particular all who assisted in the set-up, decorating, and cleanup.

The **Kentucky Derby Party** is next on the event calendar: Saturday, May 5. Southern Belles, get your hats ready and dust off your mint julep recipes! Watch the bulletin boards and the BTP Community WEB site for more information, coming soon.

Once again we want to say that the Social Committee is in need of additional members – both for organizing/ planning, and setup/cleanup for events. If you are interested in helping in either capacity, please email BTPSocial@comcast.net or call Marianne, 292-2325! □



A GREAT TURNOUT FOR A GREAT PARTY!



YUMMY FOOD!

MORE TIKI HUT POOL PARTY PHOTOS.....



FUN CONTESTS!



GOOD CHEER!

PROGRESS MADE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

The long-awaited new plantings along the east end of Bell Tower Park Boulevard were completed the week of March 26th. Forty-five sabal palms from 12-15' tall were installed in groups of five, surrounded with flowering jatropha and green arboricola bushes, with irrigation. A buffer of rip-rap was included for plots on the north side, protection from possible flooding out. It will take several months for the trees to put forth new fronds (they are trimmed back for transport and planting), but already they make a big difference along the boulevard.

The replacement of shrubbery and mulching is now also complete. Residents still dissatisfied with their shrubbery should notify the office, with details.

The planned new gate for the east end of the property opening onto the bike trail is in progress (see photo), and plans for the new gate openers are going forward. □



NEW PLANTINGS



NEW BACK SECURITY GATE

URGENT PLEA FOR ADDITIONAL PROXIES

Some of the key business for two of our Boards, the POA and Courtyard Homes I, could not be completed because each failed to acquire the necessary member numbers for critical votes. Both organization tabled their critical votes in order to get the proxies needed to establish the required quorum.

So if you didn't send in your proxies, **please do so now**. Blank proxy forms can be obtained from the CAM and they are also posted on the BTP WEB site. □

BTP WILD THINGS— Reptiles

By Jim Stewart



GATOR AT THE FRONT DOOR
OF A BTP HOME.

“In some areas, alligators are fed by humans, which is extremely dangerous and encourages the creatures to approach humans aggressively, expecting food.”



GATOR LEAVING ONE OF
OUR PONDS.

In my column in the last newsletter, I reported that I had never seen an alligator at BTP. Well, just hours after that appeared, the pictures started rolling in. A medium-size alligator was spotted in January in the pond just across BTP Boulevard from the small swimming pool. On January, 12th, an alligator—maybe the same one?—came to the door of 5680 Chelsey Lane! (See the pictures—I didn’t make this up.)

Other residents have photographed the beasts in the big pond south of Kensington Loop and in the pond between Bently Circle and Avon Park Lane. These photos and others (including a really BIG guy that was removed from one of our ponds in 2010) are posted in an album on the BTP WEB site—have a look. Since all the ponds are actually connected by conduits, we might be seeing the same alligator over and over. Or not.

An estimated 5 million American alligators are spread out across the southeastern United States, with roughly 1.25 million that call Florida home. Male alligators can grow up to 18 feet in length and weigh 450-600 pounds, while females are smaller. Alligators can live 35-50 years in the wild and 60-80 years in captivity. Large male alligators are soli-

tary, territorial animals, and the largest males and females will defend prime territory. In wild areas, smaller alligators can often be found in large numbers in close proximity to each other, because smaller alligators have a higher tolerance of other alligators within a similar size class.

American alligators mainly eat fish, turtles, various mammals, birds and other reptiles. They may also expand their choice of prey to include small dogs and other pets. Alligators have been known in rare instances to attack children and even occasionally adults, usually because they mistake the human for much smaller prey, or they are provoked. In some areas, alligators are fed by humans, which is extremely dangerous and encourages the creatures to approach humans aggressively, expecting food. When left alone, alligators will stay away from humans and pose little threat. So the rule for us is: take your photo with a zoom lens, and stay well away from the pond edges with your pets and children, especially at night, when they hunt.

Besides our alligators and the small lizards that inhabit our patios and shrubbery, we have snakes. The groundskeepers have told me they see two kinds of snakes on a regular basis at BTP. One is

the glossy Black Racer, that hunts during the day and is sometimes seen moving quickly with its head held high above the ground as it hunts for prey. They feed on frogs, rodents and lizards. The other common sighting is the Red Rat Snake (also called Corn Snake), which has a beautiful orange-splotched pattern on its golden skin. The Red Rat Snake subdues its small prey by constriction. The name “Corn Snake” is a holdover from the days when the southern farmers stored harvested ears of corn in a crib. Rats and mice came to feed on the corn and the Corn Snake came to feed on the rodents.

These two snakes are not venomous, but will bite if picked up or cornered. Though many people imagine the tropics to be “dripping” with snakes, in reality, they are amazingly retiring and difficult to see. There are 45 species of snakes in Florida, only 7 of which are poisonous, but you will have to look hard – or be lucky – to see any of them. The most serious snake pest in south Florida is the invasive Burmese Python, and I sincerely hope no one will be able to send us any pictures of THOSE things in Bell Tower Park! □

Our New CAM: Dixie Cory

By Suzanne Ferguson

Upon the sudden resignation of Glen Fulker for personal and family reasons, a familiar face reappeared at Bell Tower Park on March 7th: Dixie Cory, who was our Assistant CAM from November through February. Since she has knowledge of the community, she has been able to hit the ground running—just in time for all the annual meetings and the long-planned audit of our finances.

Dixie has been a licensed Community Association Manager since 2004. Before coming to Cardinal Management in November of 2011, she worked for PNM Property Management in Ft. Myers as the Portfolio Manager for 16 associations around Lee county—including Ft. Myers Beach and North Ft. Myers as well as Ft. Myers. Among her duties were preparing for and

attending association meetings, dealing with vendors, and inspecting the properties. During much of the time she had no administrative assistant, so had to cover that work as well.

Her priorities for Bell Tower Park, after getting through the annual meetings successfully—encouraging the needed proxies was her first order of business—, are completely familiarizing herself with all the associations’ financials, making sure that we are up to date on all receivables, and getting through the audit—the critical first one since turnover from the developer last year.

Completion of the landscape renovations, including installation of new trees by the Clubhouse Pool and along the eastern end of Bell Tower Park Boulevard is high on her list, along with coordinating the



DIXIE CORY

POA committees with the Board’s priorities. The addition of two members to the POA Board and the staggered terms will be a very positive development, but will require sound implementation. □

“I am excited to be the Onsite Manager here at Bell Tower Park and I look forward to meeting you ...”
- Dixie Cory

NEW ADMIN ASSISTANT: Karen Vollmer

By Suzanne Ferguson

Starting March 1, Karen Vollmer has been the new “face” of Bell Tower Park in the Community office. Karen has lived in Florida all her life and moved from Tallahassee to south Florida three years ago.

While in Tallahassee, Karen worked ten years as

the office manager for a day spa, and after relocating to Ft. Myers she was medical receptionist at a multi-doctor office before recently signing on with Cardinal Management.

A grandmother of three, Karen lists her hobbies as boating and motorcycle riding with her husband of 39 years. □



KAREN VOLLMER

OUR CAM OFFICE HAS BEEN RELOCATED INTO THE CLUBHOUSE ANNEX (FORMER SALES OFFICE); IT IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS WEEKDAYS 9-12 AM.



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Marion Cassie, Richard Roux, and
Jim Stewart

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Suzanne Ferguson

Welcome to *Bell Tower Notes* Issue #3. The Communications Committee of Bell Tower Park joins me in thanking all of you who commented on Issue #2 and who sent us material for this issue. We are very pleased to be able to contribute to our community by improving exchange of ideas and information. We're especially happy with the increasing reciprocity between our newsletter and our WEB site (www.belltowerparkcommunity.com). In this newsletter there are numerous links between stories and either photo files or other information on our WEB site. We hope you will enjoy going from one to the other, and perhaps contributing to the WEB site's "message board" or "photo albums."

Since the February issue, we have welcomed a new member to our committee, Barb Haydock from Courtyard I. We are still looking for new members with writing, editing, layout, and WEB skills, especially with our WEB master and layout editor, Richard Roux, joining the POA Board. We are planning a mid-summer issue; and people can contribute on-line, so let us hear from you. □



UN-BEE-LIEVABLE!!

By Richard Roux & Suzanne Ferguson

Recently there was a report of a large, bear-like animal climbing a tree in one of our wetland preserves. Further, there were reports of a large bee hive in the trees there. This hive has been located and appears to be 3-4' high and over 40' in the air. It's totally possible that the person mistook the actual hive for an animal.

This beautiful, amazing structure was built by a hive of honeybees. We think these must be the bees pollinating the flowering shrubs and trees all around Bell Tower Park. They are not aggressive, only intent on doing their work in nature.

Just to be sure that the bees will not become a safety issue in the future, our CAM will be working to identify the hazard, if any, that such a large hive represents. So until you hear otherwise, please use caution near the preserve area across from the east entrance to Berkshire Drive, coming off Bell Tower Park Blvd. □



MASSIVE BEE HIVE IN PRESERVE NEAR BERKSHIRE DR.. (Note visible bees.)