



Bell Tower Property Owner Association's

BELL TOWER NOTES

MAINSCAPE TAKES CENTER STAGE IN BTP LANDSCAPE

By Suzanne Ferguson

Special Points of Interest:

- *Playground reopening (P. 3)*
- *Queen Palms Dying (P. 5)*
- *Risk Management Upgrade (P.5)*
- *Where to find Orchids and Bromeliads (Pp. 6-7)*
- *Activities Committee News (P. 12)*

In August of 2012, the landscaping company Mainscape took over the care of Bell Tower Park's grounds. POA Board members Dave Barnes and John Davenport, along with our CAM, Dixie Cory, did extensive research, inquiring with comparable communities for a company that could handle such a big responsibility. Our grounds comprise the largest single component, about a quarter, of our total community budget.

They knew we needed a company that could manage all aspects of landscaping: soil, water requirements, fertilization and weed control, trees and shrubs, and seasonal color, as well as the acres of turf that give Bell Tower Park its character.

Landscape is an ongoing conundrum: it's never really "finished." Whenever one problem is solved, another crops up. To address the concerns of residents, Mainscape has a policy of sending its Manager for BTP, Bryan Stork, to consult with individuals about their



New Entry Plantings Installed February 6th.

landscape issues. Shrubs dying? Need advice about substitutions? Tree or shrub too close to the house? Hibiscus or bougainvillea not blooming? Not happy with the way something was trimmed? You can call Mainscape at 1-800-481-0096 to schedule an appointment.

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POA ANNOUNCES TOWN HALL MEETING Documents Revisions, Restatements, to be Presented

By Suzanne Ferguson

Over the past year, our attorneys, management, and Board have been working to revise our governing documents, primarily to properly identify Bell Tower Park as a Condo Association, subject to Condo law rather than Homeowners' Association law, and

to update them with other changes made since Turnover.

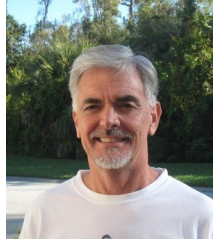
The revised documents have been mailed or e-mailed to owners, and the Board is hosting a Town Hall Meeting at the Clubhouse Annex Monday, February 25th at 7 p.m., immediately preceding the regular monthly Board meeting, to discuss them. Our attorneys,

the firm of Condo & HOA Law Group, PLLC, will have a representative there to answer questions.

Ultimately, the membership will have to approve the changes by ballot. All owners are urged to read the amended documents and to come to the meeting February 25th. □

A GLASS HALF FULL

By John Davenport, POA Director



It is very easy for people to complain about things in their lives: their job, the government, the community etc. For some, the negative always seems to outweigh the positive. We at Bell Tower Park are no different; it's simply human nature. Just to give some balance, I thought it would be good to list some of the positives that have transpired here in BTP the last year or so:

- The east end of Bell Tower Park Blvd has been properly landscaped and looks beautiful.
- We now have a rear gate leading to the John Yarborough Linear Park that has helped shore up security within the community.
- We have installed a walk-through gate on the Andrea Lane gate side so that our school children can now safely walk to their bus stop, along with a bench at the Andrea Lane bus stop so that our school children do not have to sit on the street, where their safety was in jeopardy.
- We have a new pool service, Jackson Pools, and the results of their hard work have met with raves from our residents.
- We have a new landscape company, Mainscape, and we are receiving excellent reviews from our residents as to how good the Park is looking.
- Our Fitness Center was renovated over the last year with new equipment, new signs and rubberized flooring that has totally transformed the Center.
- We introduced a new security company, Envera, that has worked out tremendously well for our residents and visitors. The number of incidents with the gates has dropped dramatically.
- We installed new gate parts on all gates that have made them work much better and have resulted in our gate maintenance costs being cut by more than half.
- The Children's Playground has been renovated for safety and appearances.
- We developed and implemented new commercial vehicle and parking rules and regulations that address former complaints.
- We have a new Activities Committee that is introducing a number of new social opportunities for the community.
- The POA paid to have the sidewalk and gutters along Bell Tower Blvd power washed.
- The pole guarding the fire hydrant near the guardhouse that was listing at about a 45 degree angle for the last three years was finally straightened.
- A Neighborhood Watch Program was implemented in BTP.
- The tennis courts were resurfaced and are being professionally maintained.
- A number of new pool lounge chairs were purchased.
- New commercial type BBQ grills were purchased for both pools.
- New, flat-screen TVs were purchased for the Fitness Center and the Clubhouse.

The following items are on the horizon for 2013:

- A new bike rack will be installed at the Andrea Lane bus stop so that our school children do not have to lock their bikes on the stop sign.
- There will be a number of landscape enhancements made to the Park as the year progresses and budget allows.
- Our documents will be revised, compacted, and issued to our residents in CD format for easy storage and access.
- New, solar-powered lighting will be installed at the West Hyde Park roundabout to allow for more light for our residents at night.
- Many of the cracks in the sidewalk along Bell Tower Blvd. will be repaired.
- A new clearance bar will be installed on the overhang at the guardhouse to prevent trucks from damaging it.
- A new Hurricane Plan/checklist will be ready for the new hurricane season. □

NEWS FROM COURTYARD II

By David Shaw, President

The Board of Courtyard II has been diligently pursuing resolution to issues involving delinquencies. We are pleased to report that we believe we have made significant progress over the past twelve months primarily due to the efforts of our legal counsel and dedicated Board members. While remaining sensitive to the unique adverse circumstances surrounding each individual case, prudence and fiduciary responsibilities mandate that action was necessary. Several units have been purchased during the past year and we welcome our new residents.

Our Annual meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 11 at 7:00 P.M. in the Clubhouse Annex. We will make every effort to ensure that a quorum is attained so that we will be able to handle the business at hand. This will allow me the opportunity of again going door-to-door and speaking with Courtyard II residents, asking for their proxies if they will be unable to attend. Four of the current board members have graciously agreed to serve another term, and the consistency and continuity which is assured by their action is greatly appreciated.

After serving for six years, since the inception of our condominium association, I will not run for another term. However, I will fully support the elected board and remain available to assist as they deem necessary. I have enjoyed the opportunity of serving the residents of Bell Tower Park's first association to achieve Turnover, and now simply desire a break from service. □



David Shaw. Retiring as
President of Courtyards II

"I have enjoyed the opportunity of serving the residents of Bell Tower Park's first association to achieve Turnover."
- DAVID SHAW

PLAYGROUND REOPENS

By Richard Roux

Our BTP youth playground, which had been closed for the last few months, re-opened just before Christmas. The playground was closed when an inspection showed that the swings, the two small wooden benches and some of the wooden pieces on the main structure had sustained weathering damage, making them unsafe as well as unsightly. The swings were subsequently removed, a new large bench was added, and the main superstructure (which contains three slides) was refurbished, sealed and stained. New playground signs and area mulch were added in January.

The green metal mesh bench is a prototype for potential additional benches that could be located around our grounds. They were chosen, in part, on appearance, cost, ability to shed water, and ability to remain cool on sunny days. Residents are asked to try out the new playground bench and offer their opinion on this design.

The playground is intended for use by youth ages 3-9. Adult supervision is required. Pets are not allowed within the playground area.

This upgrade was a project of the Buildings and Amenities Committee, which is still looking to add a few pieces of equipment to replace the swings. Child appeal and safety are some of the criteria that are being used. This equipment should be added in 2013. The cost of the playground refurbishment to date is approximately \$4000. It is hoped that the refurbishment will give the playground, now approximately 8 years old, another 7 years of useful life. □



Residents are asked to try out the new playground bench and offer their opinion on this design for other BTP locations.



Bryan Stork, Mainscape's
Manager for Bell Tower Park

*You can call
Mainscape at 1-800-
481-0096 to schedule
an appointment.*



New Foxtail Palms and Bou-
gainvilleas at the Front Gate

“MAINSCAPE” (continued from the front page)

After four months of Mainscape care, most residents are seeing improvement. Bryan thinks their biggest achievement to date is “the individual comments we get on an almost daily basis. We feel that letting the residents have a direct line to us through our 800 number and our website helps us to have the personal contact that will assist us to continually improve the Bell Tower Park community.”

Bryan is also providing us with occasional articles on landscape plants and problems, which are being loaded on the Landscaping News area of the BTP Community WEB site as we receive them. An article on the cypress trees is already there, and others will be forthcoming. Also at that site are the weekly and monthly schedules of Mainscape service, the list of approved substitute plants, and the form you need for

requesting a variance.

Asked what his vision is for Bell Tower Park’s grounds, Bryan says, “We want to be a part of a team that helps beautify the property. We hope to work closely with the board and the residents to understand the specific needs and wants for the community and to continually improve for the future.”

At the present time, there is no resident Landscape Committee, but POA Board member John Davenport is working with manager Dixie Cory to be sure progress continues. John observes that Mainscape has shown continuous progress in their goal to make Bell Tower Park “a premier landscaped community.” He believes that they are still learning the community and have had to deal

with many unforeseen challenges. John has found the staff “to be extremely professional, easy to work with and very responsive to any request we have made of them.” He continues, “I am excited at what the future holds for our landscape potential. It will take time, but I am confident that Mainscape, with the help and patience of our community, will continue to impress us with their knowledge and ability to do the job we expect.”

There is a continuing forum on the landscape on the Message Board area of the WEB site, and also photographs of our landscape in the Photo Galleries. Anyone can contribute thoughts or pictures. □

SNOW BIRD REMINDER:

If you are a snow bird, please check the "Home Closing List" on the WEB site before you leave. These suggestions should help you keep your home in good shape while you are gone.

CHANNEL 195 RETURNS

CHANNEL 195, our Community Video Bulletin Board, is back on the air with revised content, thanks to resident Joel Bloom, who got to the bottom of the technical problems we were having in programming it and resolved them for us. Be sure to check it out for brief notices of upcoming activities, important phone numbers, and the like. It’s updated once a month. □

BTP QUEEN PALMS BEING KILLED BY FUNGUS

By Suzanne Ferguson

Several of our Bell Tower Park Queen Palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*) have recently been removed because they were infected with a lethal disease called “fusarium wilt.” This disease causes the fronds to die from the bottom of the tree to the top, and moves very quickly through the tree.

According to an article from the University of Florida Extension, the “distinctive symptom is often referred to as ‘one-sided wilt’ or ‘one-sided death’” because it manifests first on only one side of the frond. “A reddish brown or dark brown stripe will be visible on the petiole and rachis of the affected frond, on the same side where

the first dead leaflets appear.” As the disease progresses, both sides of the frond turn brown and die, and the tree dies completely within months. There is no cure.

Researchers aren’t sure how the fungus spreads, but they suspect wind-blown spores. Once it is in a community, the transmission “is possibly caused by contaminated pruning tools.” The trees that are being removed will be replaced.

Information in this article came from “Fusarium Wilt of the Queen Palm and Mexican Fan Palm” by Monica L. Elliott, UF -IFAS Extension PP278. □



Dying Palm on Kensington Loop

POA RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM CONTINUES TO EVOLVE

By Richard Roux

“Risk Management” is a new area of interest for our POA Board stemming from its execution of its fiduciary responsibility to preserve and protect owner assets. This is of course commonly accomplished through a variety of insurances for fire, natural disaster, accidents, etc.

Last fall, with our policies due for renewal, our POA investigated a number of area insurance brokers and the services they provide. We found that all brokers basically have access to the same policies from the same insurance companies. They differ, however, in the internal services offered by the

broker. As a result of these studies, the POA changed its broker to a firm that has an outstanding, active risk management program, IRMS, with offices here in Ft. Myers. This firm provides improved service by coming on-site to learn about the property and independently identify potential risks by having safety experts walk the property.

As a result of our broker change, we have now updated and improved our coverage and have even lowered our costs. It is anticipated our sub-boards will also switch to this firm when their policies come due. The firm can service our individual property owners with their condo insurances. More information on the firm has been put on the WEB site under menu item:

“Risk Management.” This area of the WEB also has a comprehensive brochure for owners on insuring their condominium.

Our insurance program is obviously linked to identification and elimination of hazards here at BTP. Safety is a top priority for our POA. Addressing potential safety hazards lowers the risk of actually needing to make claims on our insurance policies. The POA continuously looks for safety issues. Any resident who has a safety concern or question should contact our CAM (Dixie Cory) and/or our WEB Master (Richard Roux), who serves as the POA Board’s liaison for the “Risk Management” area. □



DAZZLING BEAUTY NEARBY

Local Venues for Exotic Ornamentals

By Marion Cassie

Besides the warm weather, one of the reasons we all love Florida is the abundance of flowers, and none are more symbolic of Florida than orchids and bromeliads. There are many places locally to view and shop for orchids and bromeliads. The closest, and a fun excursion available only on Friday mornings, is the Farmers' Market at Lakes Park on Gladiolus Dr. just west of Rt. 41, where you will find the Akamai Accents booth.

John Meyerhoffer, the proprietor of Akamai, will tell you that they are the only known purveyors of American-cultured and grown Phalaenopsis orchids in the region. These tissue-cultured plants are healthier than the commonly imported orchids and are sold by Akamai with 2 plants to a pot to insure multiple stems. The company, established in 2007, also does custom work and will plant specimens in your own container, shell, or other special treasure upon request, or create a wall mount, hanging, or tabletop specialty piece just for you if you desire. In addition to orchids and bromeliads—from the tiniest to quite grand specimens—they also have an attractive selection of sea grass planters made in the Philippines.

Another local gem, Exotic Orchid Nursery at 16710 John Morris Rd. between Summerlin Dr. and McGregor Blvd. was purchased by Bob & Anna Busch in 2004. They decided to develop what had been a seven-year hobby in Wisconsin into a full time business when they purchased the existing nursery and residence here in Fort Myers. Bob and Anna enjoy sharing their knowledge and love of orchids with visitors, and have agreed with each other to stop if it ever becomes no longer fun for them. In addition to a lovely selection of orchids for sale, they also carry a variety of supplies for other orchid enthusiasts.

Hidden in a nearby residential neighborhood a little south of Bell Tower Park you will find Sundance Orchids & Bromeliads at 16095 South Pebble Lane, Fort Myers, 2 miles east of Rt. 41. Founded in 2001 by the Behrhorst family, Sundance has 5 acres of landscaped grounds demonstrating natural plantings of their stock and surrounding several very large greenhouses filled with exotic and unique specimens. This extensive display is a veritable feast for the eyes, so you may want to bring your camera along.

Sundance has the most colorful and unusual bromeliads I have ever seen. Bromeliads belong to a diverse family of tropical plants which includes many in which the showy display is actually the foliage. Many bromeliads grow on trees as epiphytes or air plants, but they are not parasites. Spanish moss and pineapples are the most familiar plants of this family. Sundance also offers classes, and a service they call "Summer Camp for Orchids" for snowbirds who need to have their orchids cared for while they are away during the summer months. It's one of the places I love to take visitors. See www.sundanceorchids.com for a preview.

Even if you are not a gardener, visiting these local exotic plant venues will bring a smile to your face and make a memorable and beauty filled day trip.□



John Meyerhoffer at Lakes Park Booth



Exotic Orchids on John Morris Road



Akamai Bromeliads



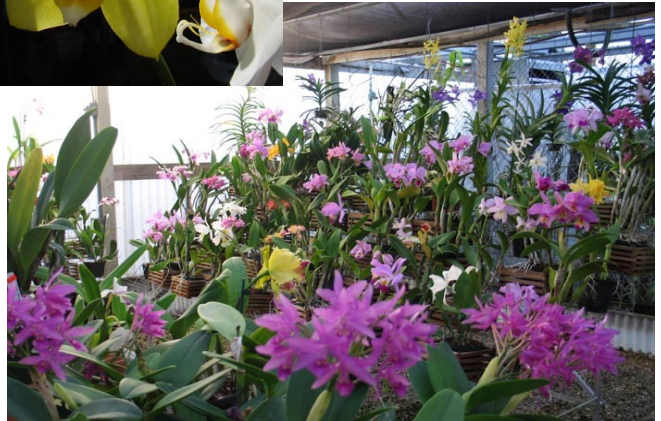
Above: Tiny treasures at Akamai



Left: Tissue-cultured American origin Phalaenopsis at Akamai



Bromeliad shade house at Sundance Orchids



Greenhouse at Exotic Orchids



Variegated Cattleya at Exotic Orchids



Cattleya at Exotic Orchids

TURN OFF THE TV, TRY CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Evolving Forms of Philanthropy Op-Ed

By Richard Roux

Sitting on a number of our committees, I sometimes look around and ask myself, "Where are my neighbors and what are their ideas on this issue?" One of my disappointments in our Community is the current disarray on our committees and the lack of community engagement. I say "disappointment" only because each month I see thoughtful residents bring up problems and recommend sound solutions at our monthly POA meetings. Yet, we have failed to stimulate more residents to volunteer their time on a routine basis to help run the community. As a result, our five POA Board members are occupied on almost a full time basis, something that could cause burn-out.

While pondering my concern about this lack of volunteerism, I read a recent *News-Press* article on the evolution of philanthropy in the United States by Rabbi Rick Diamond. His op-ed was based on the essay "Four Traditions of Philanthropy" by Elizabeth Lynn and D. Susan Wisely.

The article explained that the earliest form of U.S. charity was simple "gifting," which dated back to Colonist John Winthrop (1630). Gifting is embodied by the adage, "Give a man a fish he'll eat for a day." By the time of Benjamin Franklin a second form of philanthropy had evolved, maximizing human potential by helping those who would help themselves. This form is illustrated by the adage, "Teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime."

This second form of philanthropy had the weaknesses that not everyone has access to the "pond" because of social, legal and economic barriers. By the 1960's these factors had led to a third form of philanthropy, Social Reform. While this form had many improvements, it spawned the creation of national groups that defined their own problems, goals and resource needs and allocations.

These three forms obviously still exist today. In the last decade a fourth approach to philanthropy has evolved. It's called "Civic Engagement," the voice of the people at a local level. This form gives attention to local needs, in the language of the time, and recognizing available local assets. It also is not a panacea, as it suffers from the typical frustrations of democracy, such as being slow, contentious and difficult put into measureable outcomes. Maybe the best adage here is: "If it's to be, it's up to me."

So many of our residents in Bell Tower Park have great ideas and have great background experience. Civic Engagement offers an opportunity to continue those life experiences through being exposed to new individuals, venues, thoughts and ideas. My rewards from participation on the POA Board and committees have been great. I have learned new tools (like how to set up a WEB site), and the intricacies of operating community pools (from my work in selecting a new pool service). These are things I never thought I'd do. They have been interesting and fun to learn. And along the way I have acquired new friends within the community and in the businesses that service our community. Also, I can see that the results of this work have made life here more enjoyable for other residents. That's incredibly rewarding.

So, please don't think that you can't individually make a difference. What better experience can you have than to interact with others and to learn from others about others? Shut down your TV set for a few hours and participate in developing the committees, social events and activities that we should be having more of. Watch for announcements on our WEB site and from our Activities Committee for residents to get involved in some new activities. Or volunteer to start something that no one else is doing. Let's work together to create a better community. □



Richard Roux

HELP WANTED:

Assistant Webmaster for Resident Directory. Contact Richard Roux, Richard.roux@ymail.com

Layout Manager and Contributors for *Bell Tower Notes*. Contact Suzanne Ferguson, scf@case.edu

Activities Committee is welcoming members to originate and help with events and other activities. Contact Susan Knutson, taxdbk@aol.com.

Buildings and Amenities Committee needs individuals interested in our amenities, roads and lakes. Contact Richard Roux, Richard.roux@ymail.com. □

STREET SAFETY

An Appeal from the Security Committee

By John Davenport

Now that we are in “season” and Bell Tower Park has a full complement of residents, it is important that we abide by all traffic and street safety laws to curtail the possibility of accidents and injuries. The Security Committee is asking our residents to please be aware of the following safety rules:

- **SPEED LIMITS-** We have more children in the Park than we used to, and many vehicles have been seen far exceeding the posted speed limits on our streets. Bell Tower Park Blvd. has a speed limit of 25 mph. All other streets within BTP are posted at 15 mph. Please stay within the posted speed limits.
- **BICYCLE SAFETY-** We have seen a marked increase in bicycle traffic in BTP. Florida State Statutes require bicyclists to adhere to the same rules as vehicles on the roadways. If you cycle on the streets of BTP please try and travel in the same direction as vehicles. Many residents ride their bikes on the sidewalks along Bell Tower Park Blvd., believing it is safer than cycling on the roadway. Our risk management advisor has recommended that we do not allow mixed foot and bicycle traffic on our sidewalks. However, if you are one that feels the need to ride your bike on the sidewalk, please yield to all pedestrians walking there—they have the right of way.
- **WALKING SAFETY-** Certainly one of the most common forms of exercise for our residents is walking. It is important that if you walk, particularly along Bell Tower Park Blvd., you stay on the sidewalks, as was intended. We have had many complaints from vehicle drivers who have had to swerve around people walking on Bell Tower Park Blvd. itself. Especially, people should not be walking in the road in the shadows of the ficus hedge along the south side, as they will be hard to see. This is particularly true at sunrise when eastbound drivers are blinded by the rising sun.
Please use the sidewalks!
- **CAUTION-** One further caution: walkers, joggers, and runners on our roads from dusk to dawn should wear a reflective belt or vest. Otherwise you are **not** visible to drivers in time for them to safely avoid hitting you!
- **STOP SIGNS-** We have had a major problem with vehicles not stopping at all stop signs. Again, we have a number of children and bicyclists in BTP, and there have been some close calls with vehicles running stop signs and just missing other vehicles, bicyclists or a child. We have asked our residents who have witnessed vehicles doing this to try and obtain the tag number and report it to our CAM, who will send the owner of the vehicle a letter indicating their vehicle was seen running a stop sign and that they can be fined if it occurs again.
- **SCOOTERS-** There have been a number of occasions recently where children have been seen riding electric/motor type scooters on our roadways without any adult supervision. Residents report that the children riding such scooters are young, not abiding by any rules of the road, and in some instances, residents have been backing out of their driveway and have come close to hitting a child riding a scooter. These scooters are built very low to the ground and cannot be seen easily. Unless this practice is stopped an accident and potential injury is imminent. If you are a parent of one of these children, *please* do not let your child ride these type scooters on *any* street without adult supervision. If any resident witnesses a child riding such a scooter without adult supervision, please try and ascertain the address where the child lives or is visiting and report such to the CAM so that she may call or visit the home and talk to the parent.

We do not want any resident to confront the child or parent on their own, but to report the location to the CAM so that she can deal with it.

These are some of the most important safety rules we would appreciate our residents and visitors abiding by. The Security Committee wants to thank our residents in advance for their cooperation in these matters. □



*Storm Catcher Screen
being applied*

All homeowners should know that they have all their shutters and installation hardware, and how they will get their shutters and garage door stiffeners installed.



Accordion Shutters

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS STRESSED SMART COMPANIES PRESENTS OPTIONS AT BTP

By Richard Roux

On January 28th, Smart Companies provided a presentation on hurricane preparedness to approximately 65 of our residents in the Clubhouse Annex. Smart Companies is a Ft. Myers firm that is the largest manufacturer of storm protection in Florida.

Included in the presentation by company Vice President Gary DeMond and Territory Manager Frank Manor was a slide show of the three major effects of hurricanes: wind, rain, and storm surge. Their advice was to “button-up for wind; run from water.” As has been noted in the BTP Emergency Preparedness Plan, it’s important to listen carefully to storm warnings to learn if heavy rain and/or storm surge is being projected and to have a hurricane kit—the important papers and supplies you would take with you—and an evacuation plan ready well before hurricane season. If you are not going to evacuate, you need to have supplies ready for likely power failure, including food and water for three days. (Information on preparing a “family emergency plan” is on our WEB site, along with other advice on hurricane preparation under menu item “EMERGENCY PLANNING.”)

Relative to winds, Smart Companies explained the types of hurricane-rated windows and shutters that they manufacture and/or install. These include panels, accordion, roll-down, and what they call Storm Catcher Screens, a kind of ballistic cloth shutter. They stressed that all homeowners should know that they have all their shutters and installation hardware, and how they will get their shutters and garage door stiffeners installed. Since the metal panel shutters provided in BTP Phases 1 and 2 are dangerous to handle in wind conditions, they should be put on approximately 72 hours before the storm is projected to hit—too far in advance for most people to take the storm path seriously.

Relative to the water effects, our proximity to water paths to the Gulf (such as the slough on our eastern boundary) does give us the potential for flooding from high amounts of rain as well as surge. All owners were reminded to discuss low-cost Federal Flood Insurance with their insurance broker.

Further information on the Storm Catcher Screens can be found on the BTP Community WEBSITE under the Emergency Planning button. □

DID YOU WANT TO KNOW?

BY JIM STEWART



Are the farmers markets open?

Yes, and there are lots of farmers markets in the area. You can find local fruits and vegetables, seafood, baked goods, honey, nuts, cheese, flowers and plants, dog treats, and clothing, just to mention a few things. In addition, in some places you can enjoy live entertainment as you shop.

Of course, the one nearest to Bell Tower Park is at Lakes Park, just west of U.S. 41 on Gladiolus. They are open every Friday from 9am-1pm from November until April.

Other markets in our area include the River District Farmers Market on Thursday mornings from 7am-1pm. It is located at Centennial Park parking lot in downtown Ft. Myers.

Effective January 6, 2013, a new farmers market is open at Miromar Outlets on Sundays from 10am-2pm. The market is located in the west parking lot of the Outlets closest to I-75 at Corkscrew Rd.

What is the construction going on west of the Ft. Myers airport?

According to NBC 2 news, "If you drive on I-75 between Daniels and Alico Road in Lee County, you've probably noticed a lot of trees torn down. It is part of a \$54 million construction project to connect the interstate directly to RSW (the Ft. Myers airport). The Florida Department of Transportation tells us the work is right on schedule. Crews could begin pile-driving for the bridge that will go over the interstate as soon as this month [January]. They'll start building roads next month. Construction will take about two and a half years."

More on Airports:

And talking about airports, were you aware that the airport in Punta Gorda has Allegiant Air, a carrier that offers great deals if you need to fly to or near the following cities: Ft. Wayne, IN, Greenville, SC, Knoxville, TN, Lexington, KY, Niagara Falls, NY, Peoria, IL, Rockford, IL, South Bend, IN, Springfield, IL, Plattsburgh, NY, and Toledo, OH.

Naples has an airport; however, they only operate as a general aviation airport for several air charter carriers, and no scheduled commercial service is currently offered.

What is the easiest way to find things on the BTP WEB site?

You can simply go to the BTP WEB site Home Page and log in. Click on "Site Search" located in the column on the left. Then click on Site Search Info. There you will find a list of features you can find using the site search. Just type in the feature you are interested in and you will find the pertinent information.

If that doesn't help get you the desired information, go to the menu item "E-forms." Under that menu item you can fill out and submit a "Website Request/Question" form. It is directed to our WEB Master, Richard Roux, who will reply to your inquiry.

If you have a question about something in our community or neighborhood that you would like answered, send it to me and I will try to get an answer for you. (IUKing@aol.com)

Correction from our December column: The Costco Pharmacy is closed on Sundays. □

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE HITS THE GROUND RUNNING

Several Events Scheduled

By Susan Knutson



Inaugural Coffee at the Clubhouse, January 20th

-
- *Coffee Hours: Third Sunday of Each Month, 9:30-11:30 AM*
 - *Soup Contest: Friday, March 1st, 6 PM*
 - *Tiki Hut Party: Sunday, March 24th. Time TBA*
-



Coffee hour conversations and noshing

The Committee sponsored its first event on December 16th – a **Holiday Dessert Open House** which was very well received with 75 attendees! There were desserts galore, both traditional and sugar free, along with wine, punch, coffee and tea, as holiday music played softly in the background. The hardworking elves (community volunteers) that had so beautifully adorned our clubhouse with festive decorations loaned by resident Daniel Wenner really made the afternoon absolutely delightful. Check out the BTP WEBSITE for some great photos!

January 20th saw the first Sunday “**Coffee @ the Clubhouse,**” an event that will continue on the 3rd Sunday of each month – the next date is **February is the 17th**. Nearly 40 residents stopped by between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to have a cup of coffee or tea, a toasted bagel or something sweet, and schmooze with friends and neighbors. It was great to greet new residents as well as old acquaintances and witness new friendships forming on the spot.

On February 3rd the committee hosted a **BYO Super Bowl Party** at the Clubhouse with about 30 attendees, the initial event featuring our brand new, wide-screen Samsung TV.

Our next big effort will be the **Soup Contest** on Friday, March 1st at 6 p.m. All are welcome to bring a pot of their favorite soup so that everyone can taste and vote on their favorite! A prize will be presented to the winner. There is no charge for the contributors and just a nominal fee (to be announced) for

all others to cover the cost of bread/butter, coffee & tea, etc. We hope to see a big turnout to support our BTP chefs.

Planning is already underway for the **Tiki Hut Party** to be held on Sunday, March 24th. Save the date for a fun-filled and delicious way to spend a beautiful evening at our Clubhouse Pool Deck!

One more important date to save is Saturday, April 13th – **Wine Tasting** at the Clubhouse. Details will follow on what is sure to be an evening to remember.

As you can see, we have plans for many types of activities and we are open to all suggestions for the future. The committee will be looking into day trips to local venues including theatre, museums, etc. We welcome the input from all our BTP Family and hope to see you at the events!!

We are indebted to the POA Board for their vigorous support of this committee and look forward to helping to spread fellowship throughout BTP. Founding members of the committee included Susan Knutson (chair), Kathy Gambino, Kathy Soares, Chris Merritt, Linda Gratz, and Barb Dalen. We welcome new volunteers. Many hands really do make light work – thanks to all our committee members, present and future, for stepping up to “make the spirit bright” at Bell Tower Park all year long! □



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EDITOR’S MESSAGE

From Suzanne Ferguson

Welcome to *Bell Tower Notes* Volume 2, Number 2. Now that the 2013 “season” is in full swing, there is a lot of activity going on at Bell Tower Park. We hope you are participating in the events sponsored by the new Activities Committee and appreciating the efforts of our Management team, our volunteer Boards, and our maintenance contractors in constantly improving the appearance and functioning of Bell Tower Park.

The Editorial Staff of *Bell Tower Notes* is very interested to have your feedback on our newsletter. What do you like, what don’t you like? What would you like to see more of, and what could you do with less of? This issue is particularly rich in photos, and there are a couple of op-eds from POA Board members, a feature we haven’t had previously. If you have a topic of relevance that you would like to write about, do get in touch with me to discuss it (scf@case.edu). We’ll have another issue in April. □

NOTE:

Meetings of the BTP Communications Committee are regularly held at 2:00 PM on the second Tuesday of every month at our clubhouse. Please check the WEBSITE’s Events Calendar for confirmation of the exact time and date.

**REMEMBER: WE’RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.BELLTOWER PARKCOMMUNITY.COM**

LOOK UP AT NIGHT SKY THIS MONTH

By Suzanne Ferguson

all month just as it’s getting dark.

half an hour after sunset, February 12-20th.

Carol Stewart of the Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium invites us to get out our binoculars and look up to view the moon this month. Full moon will be February 25th, but in the meantime we’ll be able to see Jupiter overhead

If you have binoculars or a telescope, you’ll be able to spot up to four of Jupiter’s moons. Another planet to look for is Mercury, which Ms. Stewart says will appear at least 10 degrees above the west-southwest horizon a

The Planetarium, at 3450 Ortiz Ave. (at the north end of Metro Parkway) has daily programs and an evening program coming up February 16th at 9 p.m. Visit calusanature.org or call 275-3435 for more information. □



Jupiter and some of its moons