



Bell Tower Property Owner Association's

BELL TOWER NOTES

BTP: CONTINUITY AND PROGRESS

By Suzanne Ferguson

Special Points of Interest:

- **Soup Contest Results (P. 5)**
- **Linear Park/Filter Marsh Update (P. 6)**
- **Wildlife Sightings (P. 8)**
- **Meet Our Resident—Al Checca (P.9)**
- **Preventive Maintenance Tips for Our Units (P. 10)**

At the Annual Meeting of the Bell Tower Park Property Owners Association on March 18th, a year of sustained progress was marked by the retention of the three Board members who were completing their one-year terms: Donald Boreman, Timothy Kidd, and Richard Roux, who will now be serving two-year terms according to the staggered terms provision of the By-Laws that was approved in 2012. Board members Dave Barnes and John Davenport will continue in the second year of their initial two-year terms.

It appears that the very lack of an election, per se, was a vote of confidence in the current Board: no one else filed to stand for the Board, so, by

Florida Statute, the number of candidates being equal to the number of positions, the Board remained constant. At the organizational meeting following the members' meeting, the entire slate of officers was re-elected by the Board for the coming year: Dave Barnes, President; John Davenport, Vice-President; Richard Roux, Secretary; Don Boreman, Treasurer; and Tim Kidd, Director. Dave Barnes thanked all the Board members and Committees for their hard work in accomplishing the POA goals this past year. He also thanked all the residents—present and not present—for their positive support and input into making Bell Tower Park a better and safer place to live.

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TIKI PARTY WOWS BTP

By Susan Knutson, Chair, BTP Activities Committee

On March 24th 117 people gathered at the Clubhouse pool deck to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of great food, music, and libations, as well as the opportunity to spend time with old friends and make some wonderful new ones!

The Activities Committee planned long and hard and were delighted that it all came together so beautifully. Heartfelt thanks go out to all the committee members: Chris Merritt, Linda Gratz, Kathy Soares, Kathy Gambino, Barb Dalen, Jeanne Newton, Dolly Milek, and Ronnie Vaccarino.

Among the highlights of the party were the festive pineapple table centerpieces and the well-stocked bar with its tasty margaritas, strawberry daiquiris, wine, beer, and soft drinks, tended by rotating volunteer bartenders.



Music was provided by Dusk, a duo who currently perform weekly at Brattas on U.S. 41. (See photo on p. 4.) The dance floor was hopping and the impromptu conga line fabulous!

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CONTINUITY AND PROGRESS (continued from the front page)

“The most important business of this year’s POA Annual Meeting was the passing of the proposed amendments to the condominium documents”

The most important business of this year’s Annual Meeting was the passing of the proposed amendments to the condominium documents: the Declaration of Condominium, the Articles of Incorporation, and the Bylaws. This updating of the documents, which had been worked on over the past year by our attorneys, our management, and the Board, was necessary, according to the memo of transmittal from our on-site manager Dixie Cory, “in order to bring them into compliance with Florida State Statute and to remove references to the developer and developer-retained rights, which are no longer applicable.” The revisions were overwhelmingly approved.

The revised documents will be circulated to the membership in the form of a CD, and will also be posted on the community WEBSITE. Not only will this form of distribution save the Association money, but it will save all of us space on our bookshelves. Any members who do want papers copies can request them from the Office.

Also approved by the membership, as required by Florida Statute, was the annual motion to roll



2013-14 POA BOARD MEMBERS (left to right): DONALD BOREMAN, DAVID BARNES, JOHN DAVENPORT, TIMOTHY KIDD AND RICHARD ROUX.

over any eventual 2013 budget surplus to operating expenses in 2014, as well as the waiver of a formal audit for the past year. As Treasurer Don Boreman explained, formal audits are required only every third year, and we had one in 2012. He also clarified the internal review process for our accounts by the Finance Committee and Cardinal Management. □

NEWS FROM COURTYARD HOMES I

By Robert Van Teeffelen

As the final association in Bell Tower Park to hold its annual meeting, we had ours on Wednesday, evening, March 27th. One director position was up for election to our three-person board. David Morgan was the only candidate and therefore was re-elected as board member. Thanks, David, for your continuing support as part of our board!

The main focus of the board remains resolving our delinquency files and getting owners into the units that will pay their dues. With the help of our attorney, we have been able to close a number of files

and have received a major part of our delinquent receivables. We still have a few delinquencies left and are working diligently to also resolve those cases as soon as possible.

We are also working with a new insurance agent to review our present insurance policies and prepare for our annual renewal. Part of their evaluation is looking at areas where the association might be exposed to risks and come up with recommendations to mitigate those risks.

Similar to the POA, we are planning to revise our condominium documents and will soon get together with our attorney to start this proc-

ess. Active participation from our unit owners is required and sufficient time will be given to be able to review all changes to our documents.

The board is happy to see that a number of units have been purchased in the last couple of months and we welcome our new unit owners. We encourage you to attend our meetings and participate in our efforts to make Bell Tower Park a great place to live and to own a unit.

If you have any questions or issues that need to be resolved, please see Dixie or Karen in our office or submit a request form which you can find on our BTP website. □



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

NEWS FROM COURTYARD II

By Jim Stewart

Having served as President of Courtyard II since its inception, David Shaw decided it was time to let others run the association. He offered to serve as a consultant as needed. At the association meeting February 11th, Jim Stewart was appointed to take the open spot on the Board of Directors.

Officers were elected as follows:

President - Bill Waldau

Vice-President - Martha Shaffer

Secretary - Paula Castallo

Treasurer - Tim Archer

A unit that had been empty and not paying association dues for about five years was finally foreclosed recently, and a new owner has moved into the property. The quest to recover our lost fees has been a nagging burden on the association over these years, and many hours of work have gone into bringing this issue to a happy conclusion. □



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

BRING-YOUR-OWN WINE TASTING SCHEDULED

By Susan Knutson

The Activities Committee announces a novel Wine Tasting event on Saturday, April 13th from 7 to 10 PM at the Clubhouse. The Committee will provide cheese and fruit platters, as well as “tasting glasses.” We ask each person to bring a bottle of their favorite “special” wine for all to taste. It will be a lovely evening to gather with our Bell Tower Park friends! Be on the lookout for flyers for this event. Please RSVP to 239-561-0810, so we’ll know how much food to bring. □

*Bring a bottle
of your favorite
“special”
wine for all to
taste*

SUNDAY “COFFEE HOURS” CONTINUE

By Susan Knutson

The Activities Committee will continue to host a regular Coffee Hour on the third Sunday of each month, as long as attendance warrants. The next three dates are April 21st, May 19th, and June 16th (Father’s Day). Coffee, tea, and continental breakfast items are available from 9:30-11:30 AM. Come meet and greet! □



Coffee hour conversations and noshing continue!

TIKI PARTY (continued from the front page)

“Mother Nature held off the rain until after the 50/50 and raffle prizes were awarded.”

The delicious dinner was catered by Mama Rednecks – with tender chicken, pulled pork, green beans almandine, island-seasoned rice and a magnificent fruit display which was almost too beautiful to eat! (See inset story, P.5.) Desserts were decadent indeed, including Kathy Gambino’s famous home-made trifles along with red velvet cake, key lime pie and several more tasty treats.

Mother Nature held off the rain until after the 50/50 and raffle prizes were awarded.

This was a day to long remember!

We are so very lucky to have talented and hardworking residents willing to give of themselves for the enjoyment of all! We also thank our spouses as well as the friends and neighbors who pitched in to help set up and clean up!

Another big thank you goes out to Ralph Neuman and Arnie Harris of Remax Realty for continuing to support our events with their generous financial contribution. Also, many thanks to Maggie and

Luis Martinez for the beautiful live flower arrangements used on our Clubhouse tables, as well as to Mike Moody for providing the snacks which whetted our appetites for the main course. Never lacking is our continued appreciation to the POA Board for their ongoing support.

Please Note: Your suggestions are always welcome for new events. The next Activities Committee Meeting will be at the Clubhouse Annex on Wednesday, April 10th at 7 PM. All are welcome to attend. □



ABOUT THE CATERER

By Marion Cassie

For those who loved the food at our Tiki Party, rest assured that this real home cooking is close at hand. Mama Rednecks is a catering and take-out food service that specializes in Southern Home-style and BBQ, and their business has been right around the corner on Andrea Lane for the past two years. (The Tiki Party shows they know how to do "Island" style, too.)

Paul and Sara Sangermano are the industrious proprietors of Mama Rednecks. Sara is a Florida native and Paul is from Oyster Bay, NY. Like an ever-increasing number of other couples, they found each other on the internet. Paul has been involved with food preparation since he was 15 years old, but when he was laid off from his chef's position with a high-end restaurant he just

needed a job to feed his family. Paul took what was supposed to be a temporary job cooking lunch at a food truck and found that he liked the lower stress of the "nothing fancy, just home-cooked food," as well as the interaction with customers. Sara's background is sales, and together they have used their strengths to build a business with a loyal following.

In 2011 they opened Mama Rednecks at 2155 Andrea Lane Unit C-8, just down the street from BTP. Currently they only offer "delivery and carryout," but in early April they are moving to 2150 Colonial Blvd. close to U.S. 41 at the former "Juicy Lucy" site, which will enable them to be open more evenings and also allow seating for eat-in customers.

Every item on Mama Rednecks



The Sangermano Family

menu is made from scratch, including the sausage gravy. They are open Monday-Thursday 7AM until 3 PM, and on Fridays only they are open until 8 PM. You can order online and they will deliver to your home (www.mamarednecks.com). The menu along with food pictures are also available on their website, or you can order by calling (239) 225-7997. □

SOUP CONTEST SATISFIES

By Suzanne Ferguson

Organized by our Activities Committee, the first Bell Tower Park Soup Contest took place Friday evening, March 1st at the Clubhouse. With nine different soups, from vegetarian bisques to hearty chilis and seafood medleys, prepared and set up anonymously by nine different BTP cooks, the tasting delighted over 30 guests.

Although every soup was palate-pleasing, a clear favorite emerged (so clear that by the time late-comers arrived there was none left to taste). Mike Moody's chicken poblano soup won the taste test and the prize: a cookbook!

Resident Diane Sutkiewicz' visiting mother, Sally Evancho, won the 50/50 raffle, held to supplement the modest donation requested of those who didn't enter soups in the contest. All set ups and cleanup were taken care of by members of the BTP Activities Committee, with donated rolls and bottled water courtesy of Mike Moody.

Plans are already forming for an even bigger and better contest next year. □



Nine contestant entries (top photo), and the winner, Mike Moody (bottom photo). Photos by: Marion Cassie

TEN MILE CANAL FILTER MARSH UPDATE

By Susan Kehoe

As you have likely noticed, things are much quieter on the east side of our neighborhood. The construction vehicles are gone, the dust has settled and the linear park can be traversed unimpeded. Yes, the Ten Mile Canal Filter Marsh project adjacent to the linear park and our neighborhood is almost complete! According to Steven Farah, Project Manager, Lee County Division of Natural Resources, the Filter Marsh project should be finished by mid-April.

Did you know that Ten Mile Canal was originally created in the 1920s and further developed in the 1970s as a means to control flooding in South Ft Myers? The canal begins at Hanson Street to the north and flows into Mullock Creek to the south and subsequently, into Estero Bay. Substantial growth in industrial and other urban development around Ten Mile Canal has negatively impacted the pollution level of the water flowing into the canal and Estero Bay.

The purpose of the Ten Mile Canal Filter Marsh project is to reduce this urban pollution and enhance the quality of the canal water before it reaches the bay. This is achieved by diverting canal water through the “created” filter marshes and returning the filtered, cleaner water back into the canal as it flows on to Estero Bay.

Specifically, canal water enters the Ten Mile Canal marsh system from above the low dam just north of Daniels Pkwy. It flows via under-

ground pipes into a settling basin south of Daniels, located just below the park entrance at the flagpole. (See the dark body of water in the aerial photo.) From the settling basin, water flows under a berm directly into the *first* filter marsh. Simultaneously, additional water is transported from the settling basin into the *second* filter marsh via a pipe connection located under the new maintenance road on the railroad property east of the marsh. The *second* filter marsh begins just south and east of the bridge located outside the gate to our neighborhood.

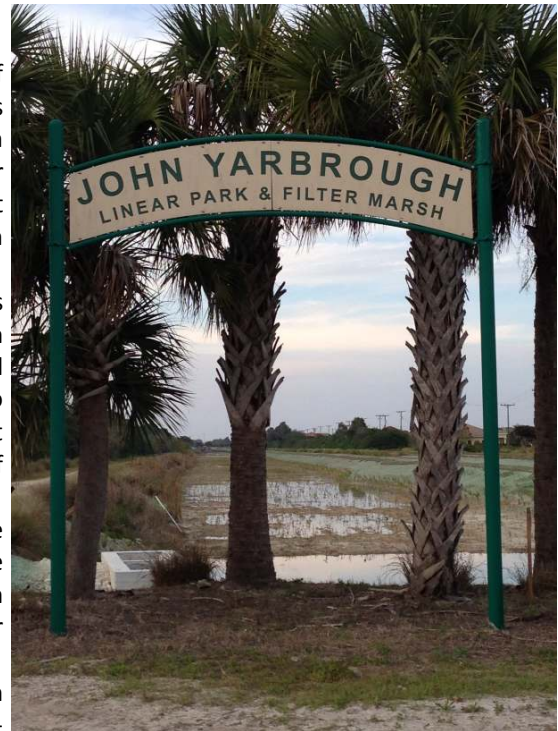
Water flowing from the settling basin into the filter marshes as well as water flowing from the filter marshes back into the canal will be controlled by operable gates installed in concrete structures located at appropriate points along the banks of the marshes and the settling basin. The final aspect of the project will be the installation of these gates where temporary plywood boards are currently visible.

The main feature of the revamped Ten Mile Canal Filter Marsh project is the parallel system allowing for simultaneous filtration of canal water through two marshes in approximately the same land space of the previous single marsh system. This increased filtering capability is expected to result in corresponding improvements in the percent of canal water processed and thus, water quality.

The goal of the new marshes is nutrient reduction--specifically nitrogen and phosphorus--through filtration by “working plants”: wetland vegetation whose job it is to take up these nutrients. The Filter Marsh planting plan includes Sand Cordgrass, Yellow Canna, and Knotted Spikerush for slope and shoreline plantings. Plants such as Alligator Flag, Pickerelweed and Bulrush are being planted on the bottom of the marshes.

Future plant maintenance will include harvesting, because as the “working plants” mature their ability to absorb nutrients will diminish. Since these marshes are designed to mimic naturally occurring wetlands, in addition to filtering pollutants, they should provide good habitat for fish and waterfowl (and hopefully, some great wildlife viewing for us!).

Other newly created filter marshes in the area include the Briarcliff Filter Marsh at 16100 Rainforest Lane, where during a recent visit two eagles, an osprey and ducks numbering into the hundreds were spotted; and Powell Creek Filter Marsh at 15601 Hart Rd. in North Ft Myers, where an ADA accessible trail was established on the raised berm around the created marsh. □





Aerial view of the project (looking south from Daniels Parkway and with Kensington Loop Roofs visible in the upper right), and two photos of completed filter marsh plantings.

IMPORTANT HOME CLOSING TIPS

By Richard Roux

Each spring a segment of our population heads back to their cooler weather locations. Our BTP Website has collected a set of tips to remind owners about the long-term closure of their units. The current topics that are explained in detail on our Website, www.belltowerparkcommunity.com, are highlighted below.

- MAIL
- POOL
- BATTERIES
- WASHER/DRIER
- PATIO FURNITURE
- A/C
- HUMIDISTAT
- DISHWASHER
- GARBAGE DISPOSAL
- CABINETS/DRAWERS
- TOILETS
- ELECTRONICS
- FOOD
- REFRIGERATOR
- PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
- HOT WATER HEATER
- HURRICANE PREPARATIONS
- TRASH
- WATER
- PEST CONTROL
- LOCKS
- CONTACT INFORMATION
- ENVERA
- HOME WATCH
- INSURANCES
- IMPORTANT PAPERS

Reader comments and additional items for the list would be welcome; please send them to Richard.roux@ymail.com.

□

BOA CONSTRICTOR FOUND ON BENTLY

By Suzanne Ferguson

Probably the “wildest” wildlife sighting yet in Bell Tower Park took place on Bently Circle on March 13th, when this boa constrictor was seen, photographed and—unfortunately—killed, as no one knew what else to do with it. (Animal Control does not deal with snakes.)

Wikipedia has a detailed article on boas that lists numerous subspecies from the New World (there are others native to Africa). According to the article, boas are usually nocturnal but may bask in the daytime if it’s cold at night, as it was here

in mid-March. They eat rodents, lizards, birds, and bats, but have not been known to attack humans or pets.

In fact, these snakes are kept as pets and are said to do well in captivity. Speculation is that this snake was likely released by an owner, as they are not common in south Florida.

Note: Boas are easily distinguished from the more brightly colored, non-constricting, non-poisonous Florida native Corn Snake we commonly see around here. Also, they are quite different in colors and habits from the invasive and dangerous Burmese Python. □



Bently Boa!!

SWALLOW-TAIL KITES SEEN SOARING

By Suzanne Ferguson

During March several times a pair of beautiful Swallow-Tail Kites came gliding in the sky over Bell Tower Park. These spectacular birds often appear here in spring, but rarely at other times. They migrate to Central and South America for the winter, but do nest in the less developed parts of Lee and Collier County, according to Charles Sobzack’s terrific guidebook, *The Living Gulf Coast*. Although they share coloration with seagulls, they are inland birds, more like hawks than gulls or terns. They eat mostly insects they pluck from the air, but also lizards and small mammals.□

(NOTE: This photo to the right is by Greg Lavaty, a bird photographer from Texas; check out his website at www.texastargetbirds.com.) □



MEET AL CHECCA

By Jim Stewart

One day at the clubhouse pool I met a person whose story I'd like to share with you all. Meet Al Checca! Al was raised near Pittsburgh, PA. He started flying in 1967 at age 19 and had almost earned his flying license when he got his notice to report for a draft physical. Instead, he joined the Navy, rising to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. His service was in the engine room of the USS Enterprise, the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, during the Vietnam war.

After six active years in the Navy, Al used his nuclear energy training to get a job with Carolina Power & Light Company. In 1976, he moved to Chicago to work with ComEd, the energy provider for northern Illinois.

About a year later, his wife, Lois, gave him the green light to go to college, something he always wanted. Al started taking courses at night and after 10 years received B.A. in Business Administration from the University of St. Francis in Joliet in 1986. When his boss suggested it was a shame he didn't get his degree in engineering, he went back and got that degree, too, finishing a B.S. in Nuclear Power from Northern Illinois University in 1990.

Al always maintained his interest in flying, and in 1982 he purchased an ultralite, then another that went a little faster. In 1999, Al took early retirement and finally got his pilot's license. He purchased a kit from Van's Aircraft to build an RV-6A: a two-seat, single-engine, low-wing airplane. He and his son took four years to build the plane that could fly 208 mph. In this plane, Al and his wife flew all over the United States visiting places like Seattle, San Antonio, New Orleans and Mt. Rushmore. In 2010, Al and his son flew to Alaska, a trip that took 23 flying hours over three days. Using favorable air currents, they made it back to Chicago in just 19 hours.

Al and Lois are renting this winter at Bell Tower Park, where her brother already owns a unit. They are looking for a place to buy, but it needs to be wheelchair friendly. In 2010, Al got the shingles vaccine after being told the adverse effect odds would be 1 in 800,000. He was the "one," and was left partially paralyzed, but that hasn't stopped him from enjoying his passion for flying. His son made a lift so that Al can be raised into their airplane.

You can find Al at the clubhouse pool on many days. If you see him, say hi, but don't ask him about his passion for flying unless you have plenty of time, because he loves to tell stories about his airplane. □



Al's plane



Our Neighbor Al



Al and Lois.

PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE TIPS

By Richard Roux

Tim Kidd serves on our POA Board as the Liaison for Maintenance Activities. At the February monthly meeting he reminded attendees that maintenance of items within their unit is the responsibility of the owners. Here's a list of suggested maintenance actions that owners should be doing, particularly since our units are now over 5 years old.

- Every 5 years or so, the flushing mechanism parts within the toilet tank should be rebuilt/replaced as the water in south-west Florida affects the rubber and plastic parts. Home Depot sells a parts replacement package for under \$20.00. (Remember: water leaks can cause a lot of damage as well as expensive water bills.)
- Periodically check under sinks for leaking shutoff valves and sink traps by running your hand around the fittings, so that you can feel small amounts of water that you may not see. Repair as necessary.
- Look at your base molding around your shower door and in the adjacent room(s) that border your shower walls for any signs of discoloration. That is a sign your shower pan or liner may have a leak.
- Check corners of your windows for leaks: the first sign will be any drywall flaking or discoloration.
- Every six months oil or use WD40 on all your door locks to keep your keys moving freely.
- Oil or apply WD-40 to all your door hinges; this will stop any squeaking and eliminate that black dirt you'll find on the floor below your door hinges.
- Garage doors should be serviced every five years by a professional company to ensure proper operation. (However, you should oil or WD-40 the tracks and rollers every year to help prevent wear.)
- Sliding glass door tracks should be oiled or WD-40'd every year as well. After oiling, wipe the tracks down to remove any extra oil (so as not to track it onto your carpet and tile).
- Air conditioning and or your HVAC systems should be serviced by a professional company every year. The best time is in the spring to ensure that your systems are in good working order for the hot, humid summer.
- Air conditioning filters should be changed every six months with a good quality filter. Home Depot carries Flanders brand filters costing approximately \$5. (Remember, if you can see through a filter, dust can also go through it. Conversely, if it's clogged with dust or pet hair, it's not working! You are running your A/C to no avail.)

Most of us enter our homes by way of the garage. But every month or two, look at your house exterior (although you are not responsible for maintaining that area) to identify items that may need repair. Report problems to the CAM. This will help our sub-boards keep up the building maintenance and likely save maintenance costs in the long run. Also when you are out in the community and see things that are in need of repair (or look out of place), please report them to the CAM, as this is *our* community, and no one person can see or fix it all. □

BELL TOWER PARK DEVELOPER DIES AT 56

By Suzanne Ferguson

The visionary developer of our community as well as Tarpon Landings in Cape Coral, Bob Hensley, died March 13th of this year. Hensley was highly respected in the area, despite having his company go into bankruptcy following the real estate collapse that began in 2006.

According to an article by Dick Hogan in the *Ft. Myers News-Press*, Hensley's projects were outstanding in design and building quality, but his timing could not have been worse. Besides the price collapse and foreclosures, Bell Tower Park was beset by the discovery of Chinese drywall in 29 new units in 2008. Hogan quotes Arnie Harris, a realtor who sold many residences in Bell Tower Park, as saying that Hensley and builder BBL Florida "were some of the first people in town to stand up" to the responsibility of correcting the widespread problem for their clients.

Another realtor, who is also vice president of Tarpon Landings CA, Joe Francis, confirmed Hensley's outstanding character: "he personally lived up to every promise he ever made to us [the association] or to me as an owner." □



DID YOU WANT TO KNOW?

BY JIM STEWART

Q. Not being a tennis player, I always wondered why they water the Har-Tru clay courts during the day. You can't grow clay, can you?

A. According to their website, Har-Tru courts are generically referred to as "fast-dry." They are actually composed of crushed stone. Watering the courts (they're watered at night as well as in the middle of the day, by the way) keeps the court stable and firm, gives the court a beautiful rich, dark color, ensures stable footing for tennis players, and minimizes erosion.

Another benefit of the clay surface is that it's a lot easier on the knees and hips of the players than hard courts. Our courts here at BTP are professionally groomed 3 times each week, and the players themselves take care of brushing the surface and cleaning the lines after every use.

Q. Many of us come from other states and bring with us our memories of the traffic laws of those states—so we may need to know the Florida law, such as, "When do I need to turn on my headlights?" or "What do I do when I see/hear an emergency vehicle?"

A. Did you know that it is a law that you must turn on your car headlights "during any rain, smoke, or fog"?

And we all have seen cars "drafting" on the back of ambulances. The law states "Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle, while en route to meet an existing emergency, the driver of every other vehicle shall, when such emergency vehicle is giving audible signals by siren, exhaust whistle, or other adequate device, or visible signals by the use of displayed blue or red lights, yield the right-of-way to the emergency vehicle and shall immediately proceed to a position parallel to, and as close as reasonable to the closest edge of the curb of the roadway, clear of any intersection and shall STOP and remain in position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passes, unless directed otherwise by any law enforcement officer."

Q. And talking about traffic laws, what is the "Move Over Law"?

A. The Code says, "When approaching an emergency vehicle with lights flashing parked on the side of a multi-lane road, you MUST move over by changing lanes away from the emergency vehicle as soon as it is safe to do so. Motorists must vacate the lane closest to an emergency vehicle to prevent crashing into the emergency vehicle or any emergency workers performing their jobs in the area."

Additionally, "When approaching an emergency vehicle with lights flashing on the side of a two-lane road, you MUST slow down to 20 mph below the posted speed limit and approach with caution unless otherwise directed by an emergency worker on the scene." □

STORM REMINDER

Hurricane and tropical storm season will soon be here. Unit owners are reminded to reread the article that appeared in the July 2012 edition of *Bell Tower Notes* (it's archived on the BTP WEB site) and update their family emergency plan.



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

From Suzanne Ferguson

It seems impossible that our "season" is drawing to a close and our snowbirds are already migrating northward. Thanks to the enthusiasm and energy of our Activities Committee, we've had a flurry of events, with more to come. The well-received Third-Sunday Coffee Hours are planned to continue throughout the year if people continue to enjoy them.

In this issue there are reports on several events, as well as good news from the associations, a profile of one of our interesting residents, a substantial update on the completion of the filter marshes along our eastern border, and—as they say—"much more."

The *Bell Tower Notes* staff is constantly looking for news, and for people to write and take photos for the newsletter. If you have some good ideas for stories or features, please get in touch: scf@case.edu. Our next issue will be in mid-summer. □

SUZANNE FERGUSON,
EDITOR

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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

To The Editor:

First, I want to thank Richard Roux for his excellent op-ed on volunteering that was published in your last issue. Philanthropy "close to home" is indeed a rewarding activity. I would like to add an area in which community engagement doesn't even require anyone's extra time or effort: that is, taking personal responsibility for our common property, the fine amenities of Bell Tower Park.

For example, sometimes all it requires is to be sure the Fitness Center is left in good condition: weights put away, machines taken care of (or reporting if something is wrong), no trash left in the rooms.

In the pool areas, we can return chairs and lounges to appropriate places and put down umbrellas we've put up during the day, in case of wind later; we can be sure the gas to the grills is turned off and leave them clean for the next "chef."

Bell Tower Park is a wonderful community with wonderful people. Not just our own units belong to us, but the entire property, that we can show pride in as we welcome our guests.

My wife, Kathy, and I would like to thank and commend the Activities Committee for their recent contributions to making BTP a happier, more friendly community. We have attended the monthly coffee hours and were delighted to see so many BTP residents getting together to break bread, socialize and just get to know one another better. Thank you all.

John Davenport