



Bell Tower Property Owner Association's

# BELL TOWER NOTES

## OKTOBERFEST DRAWS A RECORD CROWD

By Suzanne Ferguson

Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> saw nearly 120 people assembled at the Clubhouse for a rousing German-style Oktoberfest. People brought their own beverages and paid the pittance of \$5 for a sumptuous feast of German and other south-east-European dishes lovingly prepared by ladies of the Activities Committee (and some helpful spouses): Chris Merritt (co-ordinator), Joyce Berrian, Kathy Gambino, Dolly Milek, Jeanne Newton, and Ronnie Vaccarino. Also pitching in with setup and cleanup were newcomer couple Ron and Joyce Lindabury.

Besides the anticipated brats and dogs, grilled outside by John Newton, there were delicious homemade spaetzles, several other noodle dishes, German potato salad, red cabbage, sauerkraut, baked beans, and an enormous assortment of desserts, including a cheesecake donated for the Seahorse Dream Campaign by Costco.

Bill Johnson won the fifty-fifty; and a drawing was held for a beautiful seasonal gift basket



from Fresh Market for contributors to the Seahorse Dream. This was won by Suzanne Ferguson. Dave and Paula Eberhardt, two of the regional co-chairs for the campaign, brought a decorated seahorse, "Louis-Sea," to enhance the festivities, and BTP Campaign Co-Chairs Tom and Jane Kearns introduced themselves and talked up the fundraising.

An album of photos taken at Oktoberfest has been posted on the BTP Community WEB site. □

## "A SEAHORSE DREAM" COMES TO BTP

By Suzanne Ferguson

At the end of the August POA Board Meeting, Paula Castallo Eberhardt came forward to make an unusual request: would it be possible to have a community-wide fundraising effort for the new Golisano Children's Hospital at Health Park? As she and husband Dave Eberhardt are among six co-chairs of the five-county

campaign called "A Seahorse Dream," it is their responsibility to lead in getting businesses or individuals to sponsor a seahorse. Several other communities—notably High Point Place and Crown Colony—had already agreed to fund seahorses, so perhaps Bell Tower Park could also participate, they urged.



The Eberhardts with "Alpha-Betty"

CONTINUED ON P.5 ➤

### Special points of interest:

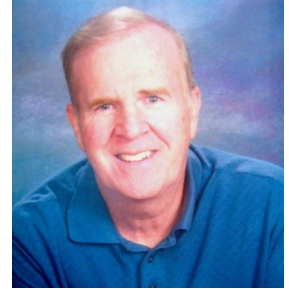
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## WE NEED YOU

### A Message from our Board President



By Dave Barnes

President John F. Kennedy famously urged Americans, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." I would like to paraphrase that quote for Bell Tower Park, "Ask not what your community can do for you, ask what you can do for your community." The truth is, we need more residents to help out.

Thank you to all that are currently actively involved at Bell Tower Park. And a special thanks to our newest POA Board Member, Bob Smith, who stepped up to the plate when John Davenport left the Board. As to those who aren't yet involved, I would like to point out that we have 478 homes here at Bell Tower Park, many of which have two occupants or more. Counting present Board members and full time committee members, we have less than 5% of our units represented in our community governance and amenities.

What can you do? Volunteer a little of your time and energy to get involved in your community. We have been asking for volunteers for committees and residents to run for Board positions with very little success. At present we have openings on the Communications Committee, the Security Committee, the Fining Committee, and there will likely be candidate openings on some of the Boards in the 2014 spring elections.

You do not have to have special expertise, just an interest in making a better community and a few hours a month to give. Please volunteer by giving us your name and what you are interested in doing for Bell Tower Park. My e-mail is [codedave@aol.com](mailto:codedave@aol.com). □

## MEET OUR NEW POA BOARD MEMBER, BOB SMITH

By Jim Stewart

Our newest POA Board Member, appointed in September to fill the vacancy left by John Davenport's resignation, is Bob Smith. Bob and his wife Marie moved here about two years ago after trying out Florida retirement living at Breckenridge in Estero for several years. They like the proximity to "so much activity and shopping," but also the fact that we're "isolated enough that traffic and passerby don't seem to hamper life within our boundaries."

Bob was born in June, 1940, in South Bend, Indiana, where he lived until he graduated from St. Joseph's High School in 1958. He then joined the US Navy and served from June, 1958, until May, 1963, specializing in sonar and classified activities.

In 1963, Bob entered Tri-State University in Angola, Indiana, and graduated in 1966 with a Bachelors Degree in Chemical Engineering. He was employed by Boeing from 1966 to 1968, then spent five years with Witco Chemical as marketing manager for environmental products. Bob next joined Carborundum as General Manager to start up an R&D project manufacturing granular activated carbon from western subbituminous coal to bring it to the environmental marketplace. During this period Bob attended Harvard Business School and received an associate degree in advanced market development as well as other schools where he received associate degrees in environmental engineering and applications.

In 1979 Bob started his own business in environmental services focusing on industrial segments dealing with consulting services, hazardous waste disposal, remediation service and environmental training. Although he sold his company in 2004, he has remained as a consultant since that time.

Bob has taught environmental sciences part-time at Southwestern Michigan College in Dowajac, Michigan and mentored and tutored middle-school ADHD students prior to his retirement.

He married his wife, Marie, when they were in college in 1964. They have 2 sons and a daughter and 7 grandchildren who all live in the South Bend area. Bob loves to play golf and enjoys wood carving. □



Bob Smith

# AMENITIES, SAFETY UPDATES

By Richard Roux

Many folks are returning to the Park and about to enjoy our Florida recreational opportunities. To be sure your activities are truly beneficial, you should check with your doctor before starting a new exercise program, and have your annual physical exam.

Residents who enjoy fishing should take note that the POA Board has passed new guidelines for fishing in our lakes covering safety practices, fishing licenses, noise regulation, furniture on the lawns, and the like. The complete guidelines are posted on the WEB site or available from our CAM. Please comply with these guidelines and use caution when fishing at BTP. There have been several alligator sightings already this fall.

The addition of pickleball courts at BTP is under review. Pickleball is a paddle game played with a waffle ball, and otherwise similar to tennis. (See photo to the right). The courts would be lined on our sports court, which currently is used only for basketball. The POA Board seeks input from the community on this subject, and interested residents can e-mail [richard.roux@ymail.com](mailto:richard.roux@ymail.com) with their comments. Demonstrations are planned for the near future; dates will be posted on the BTP WEB site.

Walkers and joggers are reminded to use reflective clothing from sunset to sunrise. Such clothing is readily available and can prevent a tragedy. Bikers should also insure that they are clearly visible. Finally, The POA is looking into the addition of an AED (automatic defibrillator) for our clubhouse as part of their on-going safety program. □



# EMERGENCIES

By Dave Barnes

In the context of living at Bell Tower Park, there are two kinds of emergencies, safety emergencies and general emergencies. The first type is anything that deals with a person's safety, such as an accident, medical emergency, fire, trespassing, burglary, vandalism or any confrontation. These should be reported immediately by calling 911. A problem that may not rise to the status of a true emergency but requires official intervention may be called in to the Sheriff's Office, at 239-477-1000.

The second type of emergency can be termed a general problem emergency in the community, such as an outside broken water pipe, sprinklers that keep running, trees or tree limbs down, gate issues, loud neighbors, barking dogs, etc. These should be reported to the office immediately, or if the office is not open or no one is available, they should be called in to the Cardinal Management 24/7 emergency phone line at 239-774-0723. You must press 7 when prompted to speak to the live operator. □

## WATER LEAKS—WHO PAYS?

By Richard Roux

One of the most common situations where your condominium insurance may come into play is to cover a water leak, whether in your own unit or one caused by your plumbing in your neighbor's unit.

Florida statute requires that the Condo Association's property insurance policy must cover "all portions of the condominium property as originally installed," except for "all personal property within the unit ... floor, wall, and ceiling coverings, electrical fixtures, appliances, water heaters, water filters, built-in cabinets and countertops, and window treatments, including curtains, drapes, blinds, hardware, and similar window treatment components." The Association's coverage is for the items in the developer's basic builder's turnover package, without your additions and upgrades.



A recent article on the subject of water leaks, written by a local legal firm, has been placed on the BTP WEB site under menu item: **Risk Management (Insurance)**. The article points out that the "who pays" answer can be very complex, surprisingly costly and involve your policy's Dwelling, Personal Property and Personal Liability coverage. In fact, the issue was too complex to summarize in this article; readers need to review the entire WEB site article.

Water leaks appear to be a timely issue. IRMS, the POA's Insurance Broker, has just added educational videos on their WEB site [[www.irmsadvantage.com](http://www.irmsadvantage.com) site; unit owners tab] that our residents can view. These videos discuss both water leaks and estimating proper coverage amounts for your unit. IRMS is a leader in consumer education. These videos are great sources of information. Owners are advised to watch them. Incidentally, if your unit is under-insured, your insurance company can penalize you by paying less than the full amount of your claim. That doesn't appear to be a well understood fact.

Essential points gathered from research for this article on water leaks or comparable events include the following:

- Maintain your unit properly (there's a list of suggested maintenance items on the BTP WEB site)
- Shut off your water supply and use the services of a neighbor or home watch service when you are away from your unit
- Use your insurance broker to periodically review your coverage with you
- Understand the impact of being under-insured

Check lists for maintenance and long-term closure of your unit are on the BTWP WEB site under menu item "Risk Management (insurance)." □

## BELL TOWER PARK DIRECTORY ON ITS WAY

By Suzanne Ferguson

Frustrated by not having your neighbor's phone number? Wish you could contact that person you met while out walking? Help is on the way. Enabled by changes in Florida law, the POA Board has directed Cardinal Management to produce Bell Tower Park's first Community Directory.

The directory will include the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of official record for all owners who have not instructed management in writing that they do not wish to have their phone numbers listed.

Although community directories were common until about five years ago, when the Florida legislature ruled that directories could only be "opted into"—that is, owners could only be listed if they specifically requested to be listed—some communities ceased producing them altogether. The new directory will be posted on the Residents' Area of the BTP WEB site and available on request from the office early in 2014. □

## A SEAHORSE DREAM (continued from the front page)

The Board was happy to approve the project, with the proviso that it is a completely volunteer operation, with no participation by the Board itself and no BTP funds involved. The “Dream” is patterned on numerous community art projects seen elsewhere in the U.S. and abroad: there were fiberglass cows in Zurich and Chicago; alligators in Naples; dolphins in Clearwater; sea turtles in Vero Beach; and so on.

In this case, the art objects are 5’ high seahorses, to be decorated by local artists, displayed by their sponsors, and ultimately auctioned off at a gala next March for the benefit of the Children’s Hospital of Lee Memorial Health Systems. The cost to sponsor a seahorse is \$3500, with \$500 going to the artist and \$3000 to the foundation, from which the expenses are deducted. Helpfully, a number of the expenses are being donated, including the final clear-coat, which is being given by Annie’s Collision, just around the corner from us on Andrea Lane.

The goal for “A Seahorse Dream” is to raise funds for at least 50 seahorses across the five counties, to supplement the \$20M pledged by the Golisano family and other donations. For further information, go to [www.a-seahorse-dream.org](http://www.a-seahorse-dream.org).

Dave and Paula and their fellow co-chairs hit upon the idea of a public art project after seeing similar events in other cities. Knowing that Ft. Myers would be remembered as the “seahorse” city appealed to them, especially after Paula discovered that the seahorse is considered a symbol of generosity and sharing, as well as friendliness.

After some initial discussions with members of the BTP Communications and Activities Committees, an open planning meeting was held at the Clubhouse on October 4<sup>th</sup>, with about 16 people present along with Seahorse “Alpha-Betty” (see photo). From that meeting, newcomers Tom and Jane Kearns emerged to lead the Bell Tower Park effort.

Helped by John Davenport, the Eberhardts and others, they immediately began to solicit our neighbor businesses and vendors for gift certificates to be given as door prizes for our Seahorse events, and individual community members began to come forward with their checks and offers of assistance. Ruby Tuesday agreed to make a BTP fundraiser part of their community outreach, and donated 20% of our purchases (as identified by bringing in their coupon) on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>, to the Foundation on behalf of our Seahorse.

The Activities Committee agreed to participate in several events, notably the Wine Tasting scheduled for January 11th (look for info to come), and a boat trip fundraiser January 25th, a cruise on the Calusa Queen from Burnt Store Marina to Tarpon Lodge for lunch, with a guided tour of the Calusa Heritage Trail archeological site afterwards.

The Communications Committee was immediately on board with announcements on the WEB site, on our community channel 195, and general consultation. The hope is to have reached our goal of \$3500 by December 31<sup>st</sup> (all contributions are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged by Lee Memorial HS Foundation), so that we can have “our” Seahorse on display in the Clubhouse from January through the March auction.

*[Anyone wishing to contribute to BTP’s “A Seahorse Dream” may do so by writing a check to the LMHS Foundation, indicating in the subject line “BTP Seahorse,” and sending it or delivering it to Tom and Jane Kearns, 5571 Berkshire Dr., #102, Ft. Myers, 33912. All contributions are tax deductible and will be acknowledged by LMHS Foundation.]* □



BTP Co-Chairs, Jane and Tom Kearns with Louis-Sea



Our Seahorse Dream Committee

## TOM AND JANE KEARNS, VOLUNTEERS

By Suzanne Ferguson

The co-chairs of our community fundraiser for the Golisano Children's Hospital moved into Bell Tower Park August 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 from their hometown of Rockville Centre, Long Island. Tom is retired from Wall Street, and Jane from being an RN case management nurse. They met in high school.

After having spent time in southwest Florida for a number of years as vacationers or snowbirds, the Kearnses began looking on-line for a full-time condo, purchased their BTP Carriage Home on Berkshire Dr. in early August and moved straight in.

They decided to volunteer for "A Seahorse Dream" after hearing about it at a Board meeting and coming to the planning meeting. "We saw it as an excellent way to integrate ourselves into the community," they said.

Tom and Jane have four daughters and seven grandchildren, whom they look forward to introducing to the BTP seahorse this winter. □



Tom & Jane Kearns

## Donors to Bell Tower Park's Seahorse Dream

(as of November 8th, 2013)

### Businesses:

- ABC Liquors
- Bahama Breeze
- Bed Bath and Beyond
- Bell Tower Marketing
- Bonefish Grill
- Envera
- First Watch
- Fresh Market
- IRMS (insurance)
- Jackson Pool
- Massage Envy
- Mel's Diner
- The Pita Pit
- Mike Powell, Realtor
- Outback Steak House
- Skinny Pantry
- Sun Nails (manicure)
- Sunshine Grill
- Willford and Lee

### Individuals:

- Karen Bella ( in Memory of Paula Gerwing)
- Frances Maria Bremer
- Beth Champion and Albert Avitabile
- John and Kathy Davenport
- Suzanne Ferguson
- Irina Gershin and James Stevens
- Gloria and Ron Johnson
- Jo and William Johnson
- Tom and Jane Kearns
- Frank and Janet Kersonty

- Ron and Joyce Lindabury
- James and Betty Ann McCarthy ( friends of the Kearnses)
- Michael and Barbara Moccia
- John and Jeanne Newton
- Marilyn Rak
- Richard and Kerry Roux
- Kenneth and Connie Shotton ( in Memory of Paula Gerwing )
- James and Betsy Stewart
- William and Mary Waldau
- Rhonda J. Watson □

## ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Susan Knutson, Chair

The last few months have been busy ones for the Bell Tower Park Activities Committee.

In July we held a barbecue with approximately 100 people attending, bringing side dishes to enjoy along with burgers and dogs, as well as some luscious desserts.

September 23<sup>rd</sup> produced a trip to the Broadway Palms Dinner Theatre to see a matinee of "Burt & Me" – a musical tribute to Burt Bacharach. We had 16 attendees who savored a great lunch buffet along with the show. Many of us left the theatre singing our old favorite songs.

Oktoberfest was held on October 26<sup>th</sup> with an overflow crowd of 120 folks eager to sample traditional German treats. (See the feature story on this event on p. 1).

These events were accomplished as we continued our very popular monthly Sunday Coffee @ the Clubhouse. This is held on the third Sunday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 with coffee, tea, bagels and Dunkin Donut munchkins. It is a great way to make new friends and catch up with current ones!

### November Sock Hop

Next up, our version of a Sock Hop on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7 to 10 p.m. We are excited to have live 50's and 60's music provided by the Jesse Allen Trio, one member of which is a Bell Tower Park resident. (See the article on Ross Mannina in this newsletter!) This is a BYOB event for which the Committee will provide light snacks.

Feel free to get out your poodle skirts, saddle shoes, blue jeans and leather jackets for a great evening of dance and fellowship. Tickets go on sale beginning Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> with the **final sale date during our Sunday Coffee on 11/17**. Get your tickets early - \$10 cash only -- and keep your eyes peeled for an event flyer coming out very soon!

### Holiday Party

Don't forget to Save the Date: Saturday, December 14, 2013 for our annual Holiday Party, 7 to 10 pm. at the Clubhouse. More information will be forthcoming on this eagerly awaited event.

### A Note of Personal Appreciation

I cannot close without thanking every member of the Activities Committee as well as our spouses for all the time and effort they put forth to make these events successful. Without their energy and commitment life at Bell Tower Park would not be nearly as much fun! □


## BTP RESIDENT IS ONE THIRD OF THE JESSIE ALLEN TRIO

By Suzanne Ferguson

The live band for the Bell Tower Park Sock Hop November 23<sup>rd</sup> features Ross Mannina on electric bass. Ross and his wife Carrie have lived on West Hyde Park since 2005, and their daughter Dawn recently bought a unit on Kensington Loop.

Hailing from the Chicago area, Ross grew up playing trombone in Big Bands. His military service, in fact, was playing trombone in a U.S. Army band in Fairbanks Alaska, where he learned to play the bass. He still plays trombone in the Lee County Band, among others.

After retiring to Ft. Myers, Ross played with the "Stan Spiro Band" and the "Music Makers Band" in Naples, and for the past two years has been playing with singer/keyboardist Jessie Allen and a drummer, currently Jason Berry. They can be heard regularly Friday nights after 8 p.m. at The Crackerbox, at 16910 McGregor Blvd. □



**SOCK HOP**

BYOB  
SNACKS  
PROVIDED

NOV 23  
7-10pm

\$ 10.00  
CASH

LIVE BAND

TICKETS: SAT NOV 9, 10-12, MON  
NOV 11, 11-1, SAT NOV 16, 12-2  
@COFFEE NOV 17 LAST DAY!

MORE INFO: 288-4348

## ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE SURVEY CONTINUES, PART II

By Suzanne Ferguson

In September, the Activities Committee posted a survey on the BTP Community WEB site, asking people to express their interest in possible new groups or kinds of activities for Bell Tower Park. Coming out at the end of summer, the first round did not generate a lot of interest, but it did yield some results, with responses still trickling in. The form is still available in the BTP Office and on the WEB site.

Nineteen different proposed topics had at least one person interested, but eleven had three or more. There were 3 each for bird watching, Tai Chi, Stretch Yoga, and line dancing; 4 each for a book club, trips to museums and attractions, and CPR. Zumba attracted 5 positive responses, and 6 responses each supported a dining out group, theater parties, and trips to sporting events. For the topics that had the most responses, there will be an attempt to facilitate communication among those individuals, so that they can get together to discuss how to move ahead.

The Activities Committee is planning a second iteration of the survey to assess additional interest and to ask for volunteers to organize desired topics. At the same time, potential leaders for activities that may not yet have evoked interest will be identified, so that people will be able to evaluate what might be made available.

You will soon be seeing the second version on our WEB site, so if any of these subjects whets your interest, be sure to respond. *(Note: See also the update on Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center in this issue: some of the desired activities are available there at low cost.)* □

## WHAT'S IN A NAME? PIZZA 2000 STICKS WITH MILLENNIAL MONICKER

By Jim Stewart

When Bell Tower Park residents Patty and Rodney Doubleday decided to open a pizza restaurant in Ft. Myers in 1994, the millennium was already being hyped, and Rodney wanted to name the restaurant Pizza 2000. Patty gave in, thinking that with the hazards of the restaurant industry, they might not even be in business by 2000.

Still going strong after the century's turn, they tried to change the name of their restaurant to "The Gourmet Pizza Bistro." But when customers would call and hear that name, they would ask, "Is this Pizza 2000?" So the original name continues along with their good food and loyal customers.

Parry and Rodney met in Connecticut in the early 1990's when Patty was visiting relatives. Patty was a Florida resident and asked Rodney to come visit. He came and quickly said, "I'm moving here and never leaving."

Their restaurant is located in the Costco shopping center by the Cypress Lake Dr. entrance. Not your typical pizza parlor, Pizza 2000 serves a signature gorgonzola salad and unique scratch-made pizzas—think shrimp and broccoli, clam and bacon, or chicken cacciatore. They serve red pizzas, white pizzas, low fat pizzas, salads, soups, sandwiches and pasta dishes. They also have a limited kids' menu.

Open Monday-Thursday from 11:30 am-10 pm, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 am-11:00 pm and Sunday from 4:00 pm-9:00 pm, they offer free delivery with a \$15 minimum order. If you haven't already been there, you should give them a try! □



A.K.A: "Gourmet Pizza Bistro"

## BOUNCE BY OUR NEW NEIGHBORS, SKY ZONE INDOOR TRAMPOLINE PARK

By Jim Stewart

Just a block north of the main BTP entrance, at 14181 South Tamiami Trail, you will find Sky Zone. It is a 30,000 sq. ft. building with a lot of trampolines—and I mean a lot of trampolines. Sky Zone offers an unparalleled entertainment experience in a spacious, clean and family-oriented environment.

The Sky Zone experience offers something for everyone—it's not just for the young, but for the young at heart, as well as those looking to get fit by burning calories in a fun way. Sky Zone offers open jumping, private parties and events, Foam Zone, Sky Slam and 3-D Dodgeball as well as SkyRobics, a low impact workout that combines advanced calisthenics, core strength building aerobics that can burn up to 1,000 calories per hour.

The Fort Myers park is the 44<sup>th</sup> to open in the U.S. and Canada. General Manager Dickson Hunley says Sky Zone has plans to open parks in Mexico and Australia soon, as well as many new parks throughout America.

All jumpers must sign a waiver, as you might suspect, but safety is the staff's primary concern. There will be times just for toddlers as well as for those age 16 and older. Prices range from \$10 for 30 minutes to \$13 for an hour. There are special rates for parties that include the trampolines and pizza. Tuesday-Thursday hours are 12 pm-8 pm; Friday 12 pm-11 pm; Saturday 10 am-11:30 pm; and Sunday 11 am-8 pm. They are closed on Mondays.

Sky Zone gives new meaning to going to a "sock hop." □



Sky Slam Courts

## WA-KE HATCHEE REC CENTER

By Richard Roux

*(This is a followup article on nearby recreational facilities. In January, 2012, we featured the Dog Park that is part of the Wa-Ke Hatchee Center; that BTN article is archived on our WEB site.)*

Located at 16760 Bass Rd., south of the intersection of Bass and Gladiolus (near Health Park), Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center is a cooperative venture between Lee County Parks and Recreation and the Lee County School District. During school days and school events, the center's gymnasium is shared with Lexington Middle school. But most of the center is open to the public all week. In addition to the center's main building, Wa-Ke Hatchee Park includes two lakes, walking paths, a playground, a dog park, tennis courts, outdoor pickleball courts and restroom facilities.

According to the Lee Parks website, Wa-ke Hatchee is a combination of Native American words for "cow" and "water". A creek cuts through the 50-acre property on which the Recreation Center was built. This watering hole was an important spot for the old Florida cowboys as the last source of fresh water for their cattle as they headed to Punta Rassa for shipment by boat to Cuba.

The facility has a weight room and fitness center that includes separate rooms for dance and fitness classes. Locker rooms are located next to the weight room and gymnasium. The gymnasium schedule features open basketball, volleyball, badminton and indoor pickleball [this is a sort of indoor/outdoor tennis played on a 1/3 size court with table-tennis paddles].

A one-time fee of \$10 per person or \$25 for a family is the only requirement to become a lifetime member of the facility. Additional weight room membership is \$20 a month, \$80 for six months, or \$120 a year. There are also fitness classes available for an additional fee, including jazzercise, line dancing, zumba, yoga, indoor cycle and tai chi. In fact, this is the only Lee county rec center offering zumba.

Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center has activities for all ages, including after school programs for children and social bridge and mah-jongg for 50+. Park hours are from dawn to dusk, and the facility hours are Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center also has free Wi-Fi service in the building.

For more information about Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center and Park visit [www.leeparks.org](http://www.leeparks.org) or call (239) 432-2154. □

## "BEE" CAREFUL, BELL TOWER PARK!

Reported by various Cambridge Drive Residents

The Cambridge Drive neighborhood was surprised in late September to find a huge beehive hanging from the dormer of one of the east-side Carriage Homes. The resident was able to get B. Keith Councill of the Florida State Beekeepers Assn. to come and set up a wooden hive box in her driveway. Mr. Councill first tested the bees to be sure they were honeybees, not the aggressive Africanized bees, then reached into the hive to retrieve the queen bee, which he transferred to the new box. (He did receive a sting or two, reported neighbor Christine Cottone, who watched the process with others.)

Within two days, all the live bees had moved into the new hive with no further intervention and were then taken away to Mr. Courcell's bee farm. He distributed parts of the honeycomb among the bystanders. □



Beehive

## UPDATE: LAKES PARK FILTER MARSH

By Suzanne Ferguson

*[Editor's Note: In April 2012 we showcased many features of Lakes Park in **Bell Tower Notes** (p. 4). The filter marsh system, nestled in a remote corner of the park, was not noted at that time.]*

Now open for migrating waterfowl: The Lakes Park Filter Marsh. In the works since 2007, the area along the eastern edge of Lakes Park has developed from a bare, dredged site into a lushly vegetated marsh. A joint venture of the South Florida Water Management District, Lee County Division of Natural Resources, and Lee County Parks and Recreation, the 40-acre filter marsh that lies just to the north and east of the narrow gauge railway barn is a terrific new area of water and native plants, with a comfortable bike or walking trail alongside it.

The system filters impurities and excess nutrients as they flow off the developed areas to the north and west, thereby improving the water quality not only of the park's lakes but of Estero Bay, into which this water ultimately flows. However, the design of dredged spoil "fingers" extending out into the water as a base for grasses, shrubs, and water-loving plants that do the filtration also provides a beautiful vista and habitat for fish, turtles, gators, birds, and small animals.

Now, in the fall, the feathery lavender/pink Muhly grass is particularly striking, and water lilies are visible in the inlets, along with the green spears of the alligator flag (which has finished blooming). Only a photo from the air can do this area justice. There are some "before" pictures on a billboard at the portal of the marsh area, but they don't show the proliferation of plants that have established themselves over the past three years since planting was completed.

A small trailer at the southern end of the marsh contains a pilot program for removing organic nitrogen—one of the worst elements of urban water pollution—by pumping surface water through a commercial ultra-violet reactor followed by several filters and an optional hydrogen peroxide injection system. If it is successful, similar projects may be built around Florida on a larger scale. □



An anhinga enjoys the lily pond



Muhly-grass and other new plantings

## HEY, DOG OWNERS: ANOTHER NEW NEIGHBOR!

By Jim Stewart

If you go east out of our side entrance to 2145 Andrea Lane, you will find K-Nine Connections. They offer training, grooming, day care, pet walking, walk and train programs and overnight boarding. In-home pet sitting service is an alternative to kennel boarding your beloved pet. They also have a photographer that specializes in pet photography. Hours are 7:30 am-6:30 pm M-F (during the week they close from 12:30-1:30 for lunch and to give the dogs time to enjoy a nap and relax before the afternoon play sessions) and Saturday and Sunday from 8 am-12 pm. However, there is usually someone there to feed from around 4 pm-8 pm, if you get home on a late flight and want to try to pick up your dog on the weekend.

When you learn about the owner you understand why K-Nine Connections is not just another dog kennel. Mary Francis Morris has been training animals for the past 15 years. She first started as a trainer at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium where she had the distinct privilege of training dolphins, otters and whales. While at the CMA, her other duties encompassed the stranding team and the "Full Circle Program," an animal-assisted therapy program working with Special Needs children and the marine animals that called CMA home.

Mary Frances received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology at the University of South Florida and became a Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst. She spent several years working with autistic children and their parents using applied behavior analysis to develop and implement behavior plans to achieve their goals.

Additionally, she attended Triple Crown Dog Training Academy, where she became a Certified Canine Training and Behavior Specialist, and a Certified Pet Dog Trainer. She is skilled in using all dog training tools in the most humane methods available, to help pet owners reach their goals with their pets.

She works and trains pets at all levels of obedience and specializes in rehabilitating dogs that suffer from slight to severe behavior issues such as: aggression, separation anxiety, phobias (thunderstorms, fireworks, etc.), potty training, and more. She is effective in teaching pet parents how to effectively communicate with and teach their pets.

When it comes to doggie daycare their spacious, cage-free environments are perfect for providing dogs the physical and mental stimulation they need. All dogs are separated by size, temperament, and disposition. A member of the handling staff is always on the floor with the dogs, facilitating play and making sure nobody is bullied.

K-Nine believes that dog obedience training can be accomplished with a variety of different dog training techniques and class styles. These techniques can range from puppy house training, dog housebreaking tips, and dog behavioral modification, to protection-dog training and anything in between. Class styles include private, group class, in-home and semi-private classes. Regardless which of their techniques you choose, you and your pet companion will learn from each other trust, respect and mutual admiration. □



Looking for playmates



Dog exercise ramp

## DID YOU WANT TO KNOW?

By Jim Stewart



Q. What are those blue reflectors we see in the streets?

A. The reflectors, which are not even centered on the road, define where there is a fire hydrant. They are a real benefit to fire-fighters at nighttime. You can find these blue reflectors all over town and even all over the State, if not all over the nation.

Q. Do you know how many employees there are at Walt Disney World?

A. Walt Disney World employs more than 62,000 people, including at least 58,000 cast members. That's more than twice the number at the Pentagon (23,000), one of the world's largest office complexes. Walt Disney World is, in fact, the largest single-site employer in the United States.

Q. How many of our Courtyard Homes have swimming pools?

A. There are 190 Courtyard Homes in BTP. If you can trust what we can see using Google Earth, there are 91 homes that have swimming pools. There appear to be a few that have just hot tubs, but they did not show up as well as the pools.

Q. What is going on at the Lee County Sports Complex?

At Hammond Stadium, the winter home of the Minnesota Twins, construction is underway (see photo below) on a \$48.5 million renovation that will transform the facility into a state-of-the-art complex designed to enhance the fan experience and strengthen the team's player development program. The bulk of the project will be paid for by a county bonding issue, with substantial contributions from the state of Florida and the Twins. The Twins have signed a 30-year lease to remain at the Lee County Complex. Phase I which is expected to be completed by February, 2014 will include:

- A new residential player development academy
- Renovations to the Minor League clubhouse and administrative areas
- A new Gulf Coast League playing field
- A new agility field
- Completion of a 360-degree boardwalk and concourse at Hammond Stadium, including new berm seating in left field
- Expansion of Hammond's seating capacity from 8,000 to 9,300
- A new parking lot

The player development academy will elevate the facility beyond a traditional Spring Training facility with the goal of creating a year-round, multi-sport, residential training center for players and staff. The residential component of the academy will be paid for by the Twins' organization, which is contributing \$6 million to cover that component and concessions equipment. In addition to the Twins' Grapefruit League games, the facility will hold the Gulf Coast League young players' games, the post-season Instructional League for minor league players, organizational meetings and rehab for injured players, as well as the games of the Florida State League Class A farm team, the Miracle. Phase 2 will be completed by February, 2015 and will feature upgraded concourses, improved concession services, restroom renovations, premium seating improvements, a new retail store, new areas for group seating and press box renovations. □





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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first issue of our third year of publication of *Bell Tower Notes*. We are excited to be bringing you our largest issue to date. It seems as if there is always something new and newsworthy at Bell Tower Park.

As our hard-working POA Board continues to monitor and effectuate upgrades to our campus and amenities, all the while managing our budget carefully, we see improvements in the quality of life here daily.

For the very first time, there is a community-wide charitable fund-raising effort, "A Seahorse Dream," aimed at contributing money toward the new Golisano Children's Hospital of Lee Memorial Health Systems. The Communications Committee is deeply involved in that effort, with publicity on our community WEB site, our closed-circuit TV channel 195, and extensive coverage in *Bell Tower Notes*.

Numerous residents, many of them new to Bell Tower Park, have come forward to volunteer for "A Seahorse Dream" and events of the Activities Committee and other committees. We look forward to seeing more residents' becoming involved in the community: it's rewarding, it's beneficial, and it's fun.

*Suzanne Ferguson*  
Editor, *Bell Tower Notes*

**REMEMBER: WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
**[WWW.BELLTOWERPARKCOMMUNITY.COM](http://WWW.BELLTOWERPARKCOMMUNITY.COM)**

## THE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT.....

We know there was not a Halloween decorating contest. But, if there were one, the house at 13989 Avon Park Circle would certainly be considered a leading candidate for a prize. □

