



Bell Tower Property Owner Association's

BELL TOWER NOTES

OUR FICUS HEDGE UPDATE

By Dave Barnes,
Liaison for Landscaping

Special Points of Interest:

- Fire District Rate Request (P. 3)
- Summer Upgrades (Pp. 4-5)
- Fall Activities Announced (P. 7)
- Profiles: Pioneers of BTP (Pp. 8-9)
- Otters Visit (P. 9)
- Mah Jongg at the Clubhouse (P.11)

For the last two months all of you who haven't left for cooler climates have noticed work crews pruning and trimming the large ficus hedges along the southern perimeter of our community. They have completely trimmed all the hedges, removing most of the cancerous gall that was discovered last fall. Subsequently they applied extra liquid fertilization, removed a lot of the dead undergrowth, gave the newly-trimmed hedge additional fungicide and pesticide treatments, and removed invasive bushes and trees that were pushing into the hedge.

Our consultant, Dr. Stephanie Bledsoe, of Plant Health Care Professionals, has been here numerous times to oversee the project, as have management personnel from our landscape care company, Mainscape.



Refurbished hedge showing new growth

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POOL PARTY DEFIES THE RAIN

By Ronnie Vaccarino and Suzanne Ferguson

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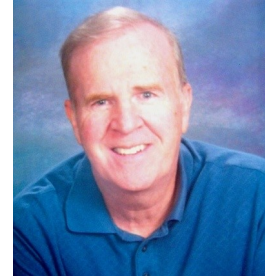
South Florida's unusual weather patterns kept everyone guessing as the set-up for the July 12th Pool Party began in the early afternoon. Dark clouds built up, thunder rumbled. Grilling was delayed, but after lightning left the area, the master grillers relay team of Bill Johnson, Vince Vaccarino, John Davenport, and Dale Knutson got the hamburgers and hotdogs cooking. The main course was provided by the Activities Committee, while the 62 attendees brought sides and desserts.

Just to be on the safe side, the party table was set up inside the clubhouse and laden with numerous salads, several kinds of baked beans, chicken wings and chili. A few outside tables were moved under shelter for the open-air contingent, and the food and conviviality rendered the rain irrelevant.



Grillers Bill Johnson and Vince Vaccarino brave drizzle to get the party going.

CONTINUED ON P.6 ➤



HAPPY AT BELL TOWER PARK

By Dave Barnes, President of the POA

About a month ago I met new owners who just bought a home here at Bell Tower Park. They were very excited about buying and moving here. That was the way I felt when I purchased my home here five years ago. They had looked at numerous other gated communities in the area before deciding to buy here, and they reminded me of the great value Bell Tower Park is. They felt the price was extremely low compared to other units they had looked at with the same features.

I decided to check out the competition for myself. I went to open houses and model homes to compare us to other gated communities here in Fort Myers and Estero. I even talked to real estate professionals to get their opinions.

Just as a reminder, here is a list of features that make Bell Tower Park the best value in a gated community in Fort Myers –

- Location – Gated community within easy access to shopping, dining, medical facilities, performing arts and libraries. Most important of all, we are only about five miles away from the closest beach, the San Carlos Bay/Bunche Beach Preserve off Summerlin Road. Just a little further are some of the most famous beaches on the Gulf Coast: Sanibel and Captiva Islands and Fort Myers Beach.
- No City taxes and No CDD (Community Development District) fees, which can add up to well over \$1,000 a year. Moreover, we are not in the flood plain, so we have lower insurance expenditures.
- We have underground utilities, CBS construction, and mature landscaping.
- We are a very financially secure Property Owners Association. “Monthly fees are very reasonable in comparison to the value,” according to Ralph Newman, realtor for RE/MAX Realty Group. Also, our reserves are fully funded for future expenditures such as new roofs, roadways, amenities, etc.
- Our monthly association fee includes our reserve assessment, on-site property management, building insurance, interior and exterior pest control, landscaping, irrigation, lawn care, high tech security, expanded basic cable TV and maintenance costs.
- We have first class amenities: professionally maintained clay tennis courts, fountains, two pools and spas, basketball court, pickleball courts, billiards, exercise and weight rooms, and play area for young children. We have our Clubhouse with kitchen that can be rented, and our Meeting and Office Annex, all with wireless internet for public use.
- Besides our own Wetland Preserves within our boundaries, we have our Nature Trail along the north side and direct access to the 7-mile John Yarborough Linear Park walk and bikeway.
- We are having more and more planned activities, from parties to games to our Clubhouse Library.
- We have unusually spacious floor plans ranging from 1748 up to 2429 square feet with screened courtyards or lanais. In addition, with the exception of the Avalon units, we all have two-car garages.
- And we have our continuously-updated Bell Tower Park Community Website, Channel 195 Closed Circuit TV, and *Bell Tower Notes* to maintain good communications.

So, no matter how we look at it, we are not only living in “Paradise,” as we like to say of southwest Florida, but we are living in the best gated community in Fort Myers. At least, that’s how I see it. □

COFFEE HOURS CONTINUE THROUGH THE SUMMER

The Activities Committee would like everyone to know that the third-Sunday Coffee Hours are continuing. They are more intimate than during “season”—in June about a dozen people passed by, and nearly all sat down to chat for a while over the usual fresh bagels (toast ‘em yourself) and donut holes as well as coffee. Come by anytime between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. August 17th or September 21st. □



TELEPHONE DIRECTORY WELL RECEIVED ADDITIONAL ENTRIES NOW POSSIBLE

By Richard Roux

Since April of this year, our owners' telephone directories have been available on our Website. The directories are presented by sub-association, with Courtyard I, Courtyard II, and Carriage Homes having separate directories, but all are available to all Bell Tower Park owners from your password-protected members area on the home page.

For the first edition of the directory, only a single, local (239 area-code) number was listed for each residence. This reflected the 2013 Florida statute that authorized owner telephone directories and defined "telephone number" in the singular. In 2014 the statute's wording was changed; owners may now add any other alternate or additional numbers they prefer. (Sorry, but renters cannot be listed in this directory.)

We know that many owners do not have a 239 number, but rather use cell phones with other area codes as their principal number. We are hoping that these owners will want to be in the directory and will notify the office which numbers they want published. Multiple numbers, including the land line and cell phone numbers of all owners, can be included.

Changes, additions, and corrections to the on-line directory can be made in person at the CAM office or by requesting a change form and then signing and submitting it in writing by U.S. Mail (not e-mail). Users of the directory are reminded that it is for the private use of BTP owners only. Although now permissible, e-mail addresses are not being included in the directory. You are requested to use the owner's phone number to get their e-mail address. Disclosure of directory information to third parties is strictly prohibited. A revised edition will be posted on or about September 1; please give us your changes.

SOUTH TRAIL FIRE DISTRICT SEEKS INCREASE IN MILLAGE RATE VOTING IN AUGUST 26TH PRIMARY ELECTION

By Suzanne Ferguson and Richard Roux

On Tuesday, July 15th, our South Trail Fire District held a Town Hall Meeting where Chief William Lombardo laid out the case for the District's need for a 0.5 mill tax increase, which will be on the ballot for the August Primary Election. South Trail Fire District is an independent taxing district established to provide fire protection and rescue services for a 55 square mile area in South Fort Myers. The district's four fire stations serve approximately 62,000 residents. South Trail responded to 7,789 calls in 2013 with an average response time of 4 minutes and 45 seconds.

The chief pointed out that the current 2.0 mill tax assessment cap was passed in 1988. Further financial pressure occurred in 2007 and 2008 when property values plunged and the district was forced to accept cuts in the applied millage because of the recession. At this point, reserves have been drawn down and property values, which determine the amount of the tax, have not recovered. Within his presentation, Chief Lombardo explained the series of financial decisions that had to be made during this period to maintain quality emergency services while the demand for fire and emergency protection grew substantially. Actions taken included reducing staff and applying for State and Federal grants, which are now expiring. The District also faces a statutory requirement to repurchase \$500,000 of protective clothing having expiring use-life.

The millage cap increase of 0.5 mills would amount to \$87.50 per year (\$7.29/month) for a property with the assessed value of \$175,000. After the various tax exemptions (like homesteading), many of our units are taxed at about this amount. (You can check your last year's tax bill to estimate what the increase might be for your unit.)

Prior to the meeting, the chief submitted a letter to *Bell Tower Notes*, laying out his case. This letter, along with Chief Lombardo's response to a query from Board member Richard Roux, has been placed on the BTP Website under "Risk Management (Insurance)."

At the meeting, Chief Lombardo mentioned that most of the comments he has received on the proposed increase are favorable, reflecting the community's need and desire for quality emergency services, which also result in our favorable residential insurance rates.

Most of the other Fire Districts in Lee County have similar pending assessments or millage cap increase requests on the August 26th ballot.



SUMMER IS SIZZLING

BUILDINGS AND AMENITIES REPORT

By Richard Roux

Summer is sizzling, and it's not just a reflection of the temperatures. As our snowbirds departed, plans were underway to make improvements that will greet them upon their return, many of which are highlighted below.

Safety First:

- **Hurricane preparations.** The contract for Clubhouse storm shutter installation was renewed and emergency response plans reviewed.

Fitness Amenities Improvements:

- **Free weight area expansion.** The free weight area in our clubhouse has been expanded into the old CAM office, more than doubling the size of the area and allowing room for group exercises, such as Pilates. [See photo, page 5.]
- **Retirement of the old Nautilus 4000 machine.** Our four-station Nautilus 4000 machine had become a dinosaur, with repair parts very difficult to find. In late July the POA Board approved the purchase of a replacement unit that should be available in August.
- **Repair of treadmills and elliptical machines.** Our treadmills and elliptical machines were heavily used this past winter. Repairs have been made, and the purchase of replacement treadmills and a new piece of equipment, a recumbent elliptical bike, has been approved by the Board.

Pools on the Agenda:

- **Cleaning of pool furniture.** Our pool furniture, particularly our fabric chairs, had become weathered looking and were steam-cleaned.
- **Pool deck cleaning.** The outdoor tile area adjacent to the pool pavers has been steam cleaned and treated with a biocide. The periodic cleaning of the tile flooring is a newly adopted maintenance program that will be continued into the future.
- **New pool loungers.** Six new lounge chairs are being ordered for the fall.
- **Avon Park pool palm pruning.** The tall palms adjacent to the Avon Park pool received a special pruning, as their flowers and fruit were creating a mess in and around that pool and spa. [See photo, page 5.]
- **Repair of pool area pergolas.** The shade-providing pergolas at the Clubhouse and Avon Park pool, which had started to crumble from wood rot, are slated for repair and re-sealing.
- **New main pool spa heater.** A new, dual fuel spa heater that will be significantly less expensive to operate has been purchased and installed. The unit's cost will be recovered within a year.
- **New parking area lights.** Two new high mast light sets have been installed in our Clubhouse parking lot to facilitate attendance at evening meetings and social events. [See photo, page 5.]
- **Enhanced pool chemistry monitoring.** A new program was instituted to monitor pool and spa chemistry on weekends.

Roads and Signage:

- **Repair of side entrance road.** A contractor is being sought for repair of the shoulder of the Andrea Lane entrance hill, which had been eroded by traffic and rain drainage.
- **Retirement of Andrea Lane sign.** The large Andrea Gate sign, which was in disrepair, has been removed. This was deemed consistent with the "residents only" use of the entrance gate. The sign light has also been removed. Alternate entrance lighting designs are being investigated.
- **New Clubhouse sign.** The large dual-sided clubhouse sign, which is also in disrepair, is scheduled to be replaced.
- **Refurbishment of gates.** All our vehicle and pedestrian gates have been cleaned and repainted.

And finally:

- **Lake #2 re-vegetation.** Our lake management company, Lake Masters, installed new water-loving plants at both ends and along the west side shoreline on our Bently Circle lake. The hope is that they will thrive and enhance the appearance and stability of that shoreline, which has been bare and unsightly for some time. [See photo, page 5.] □

SOME ONGOING SUMMER PROJECTS.....



◀ Exercise area expansion (flooring incomplete)



Avon Park pool palms- pruned

Clubhouse light installation

FICUS HEDGE (continued from the front page)

Dr. Bledsoe and Mainscape are very positive and optimistic about the long-term future of our hedge.

They have all worked together not only to save our hedge from its downward spiral, but to promote new growth that will fill in where it now looks a little barren.

In the last few weeks we have all noticed new growth, especially at the base of each ficus bush, which is a very good sign. Dr. Bledsoe and Mainscape are

very positive and optimistic about the long-term future of our hedge. New growth will continue to fill in during our rainy season from July to September.

Future plans involve monthly evaluations by Mainscape and quarterly reviews by Dr. Bledsoe. The hedge will be constantly monitored dur-

ing the rejuvenation period. Our ficus hedge continues to be our top priority in the landscaping. Moving forward, in addition to our ficus hedge, expect to see other improvements and enhancements in the very near future, especially around the Clubhouse and Annex areas. □

POOL PARTY (continued from the front page)

Desserts seem to be a specialty of BTP residents, and the tradition was definitely upheld. Spectacular cakes, brownies, peanut butter squares and fruit were among the tempting treats. Kathy Gambino concocted snazzy floral/patriotic centerpieces.

The Committee for the Pool Party included Kathy Gambino, Dolly Milek, Jeannie Newton, Susan Knutson, Ronnie Vaccarino, Cathy Davenport, Jo Johnson, and Joyce Remus. Thanks to all who helped out. □



Patently waiting



Digging in



Socializing out of the rain

TASTE OF THE WORLD HITS THE SPOT

Suzanne Ferguson and Ronnie Vaccarino

About thirty-five Bell Tower Park residents and friends gathered at the Clubhouse May 24th for “Taste of the World,” sampling a wide range of favorite dishes from several cultures selected and prepared by the diners themselves. At the end of the meal everyone was asked to vote for their favorite dish, known only by a number.

Italy was far and away the most frequently represented, with eggplant parmesan; grilled Italian sausage with grilled onions and peppers; a sumptuous chicken marsala; several different pasta dishes and an unusual ratatouille “lasagna.”

There was a beautiful corned beef and cabbage; sauerkraut with bratwurst and potatoes, tasty tiny crab cakes, and Asian lettuce leaves with a turkey/veggie filling and peanut sauce. Getting to sample everything proved almost impossible, especially when people spotted the array of desserts lined up at the bar: apple crisp, several cakes, and American cherry cobbler.

And it was that cobbler—we’re told it has been a winner in other contests—that took away the prize of a gift certificate at Bed, Bath, and Beyond. Unfortunately, the winner’s name was never revealed, so she remains our mystery superchef!

In the end it seemed unfair to give only one prize, as everything was totally delicious, and the variety made voting an impossible dilemma. Thanks to all who brought dishes and to the stalwart committee who set everything up and cleaned up afterward. □



Enjoying a taste!



Table Spread

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES

DATES FOR FALL EVENTS

Mark your Calendar!

September 13th, Fashion Show and Ladies' Luncheon

October 25th, Halloween Party

November 15th, Oldies but Goodies (music for dancing)

December 13th, Holiday Party

*And on December 7th, a trip to Broadway Palms Theatre
For
“A Christmas Carol”*

PROFILES: LONG-TIME BELL TOWER PARK RESIDENTS CARRIE AND ROSS MANNINA and GEORGE AND ALICE TUTHILL

By Suzanne Ferguson

[Editor's Note: These profiles are the first in a planned series of interviews with early residents of Bell Tower Park. If you would like to tell us your story, please let me know: scf@case.edu or 239-481-4871.]

Carrie and Ross Mannina moved into their West Hyde Park second-floor carriage home at the end of July, 2004, two weeks before Hurricane Charlie welcomed them to Florida. They were among the final early occupants of West Hyde Park Court, although at that time quite a few were renters. Now they are among half a dozen original owners on the street.

Natives of the Chicago area, Carrie and Ross had wanted to move to Florida for about twenty years before they finally took the plunge. They had relatives on Marco Island, and spent time there and in Naples in the winters preceding their move, getting familiar with the area.

Ross, a trombonist and electric bass player, performed with the Stan Spiro Band and a number of other Naples bands, and continued to do so until recently. Carrie is an accomplished painter in oils, and enjoyed the tropical land- and beachscapes as subjects for her work.

Some cousins moved into Heritage Palms and in visiting them, the Manninas came to appreciate the "small city" atmosphere of Ft. Myers. When they discovered Bell Tower Park, they were immediately attracted to the spacious floor plan of the unit and the convenient location (they like to eat out!). And it was in their price range.

When Hurricane Charlie approached, still without their cable installed, they called the office to see about putting up their shutters and other preparations. "Oh, don't worry, it won't be a problem," was the advice they got. Carrie remembers sitting out the storm in her bathtub with her blanket and a bag of potato chips. They sustained no damage.

Their shutters did fit when they decided to use them the next summer, but some others in the early units were not so lucky, discovering they either had the wrong shutters or they didn't fit properly. But the problems were resolved. They are glad that their daughter and son-in-law, Dawn Mannina and Rick Sanford, moved onto Kensington Loop last year, to help them put up the shutters if need be!

They also have a son, Steven, who lives in Chicago with his wife, Sue. "Steve is our go-to guy for anything computer-related," Carrie says.

Both Manninas are active walkers and occasional bicyclists, and over the years they have enjoyed watching the landscape maturing and the rest of the community growing up around them. When asked, they agreed warmly that they would choose Bell Tower Park again. They have been happy here.

When **George and Alice Tuthill** moved into their two-story courtyard home on Avon Park in May of 2005, nearly all the units along the street had been sold, but few were completely finished or occupied. They bought in time to pick their flooring and courtyard pavers, but otherwise accepted the existing features. Along with their neighbor in the adjoining unit, they were the first on their side of the street, moving in while construction continued beside them. "It was fine," George says, and Alice chimes in, "if something wasn't right we contacted the contractor and they made the corrections." The motif of the contractor or developer "making it right" comes up numerous times in our conversation. As a realtor herself, Alice (now associated with John R. Wood Realtors) is keenly observant of the interrelations of the buyers with the developers. During the downturn, when many developers simply walked away, Grosse Pointe stood firm, fulfilling their obligations.



Ross and Carrie Minnina

High school sweethearts in Montauk, Long Island, where George's family pioneered the commercial fishing industry during the early 1800's and Alice's family had recently moved from Pleasantville, New York, they have lived in several areas of the U.S., transferring with George's job with Motorola: New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Chicago, Connecticut, northern and southern California. Their final California residence was San Diego, where they lived after George's retirement and re-tooling into a fly-fishing entrepreneur while Alice worked in real estate.

Their grown children and grandchildren all lived in the east: New York, New Jersey, Georgia. Wanting to be nearer, they began looking in the Carolinas, then Florida. Alice has siblings in Boca Raton and Jupiter, but she and George gravitated to the west coast, where Alice's parents had a place in Venice.

Like other "immigrants" to Ft. Myers, they responded to the social ambience of the town and the natural beauty of the river and the beaches. As they had lived near coastal cities most of their lives, being close to "the action" as well as the water were on their list. When they found Bell Tower Park, it was an immediate fit.

"We love the location, near Bell Tower Shops, restaurants and best of all, Bonefish Grill." When Bell Tower realtor Loren Hagen told them they could walk to a fine restaurant, they were initially skeptical, but they have become regulars--with their own special spot--once a week for ten years now. Although they like the proximity to U.S. 41 and other traffic arteries, they comment warmly on the quiet once you are inside the community, the serenity of the preserves, and the good neighbors who have come to live around them on Avon Park. Two years ago, Alice took up oil painting, adding it to her other retirement avocations, bridge and golf.

They've watched the Boards and management companies mature along with the trees. "It seems there has been an evolution: the Board we have now seems sincerely devoted to the well-being of the residents." After nearly ten years, would they make the same choice again? "Absolutely! Absolutely!" □



Alice and George Tuthill

"G" IS FOR GATOR, AND "O" IS FOR OTTER OUR WILDLIFE ALPHABET

By Richard Roux

Perhaps you've observed the two frolicking otters (see photo) that seemingly have replaced the alligator (or alligators) that made several appearances back in May.

These alligators were never captured or removed from our property. They may still be here or nearby. While some were concerned that our residents may have provoked one alligator by walking too close to a lake, the one that chased an owner was said to have *come out of a shrub bed*. The moral: always use caution when walking our grounds.

According to our manager, Scott Thompson, who called the Florida Fish and Wildlife Department to have the aggressive gator removed, they could not find it over a two-day period and gave up. The search did yield a gator of similar reported size on property adjoining ours, which was removed and unfortunately had to be destroyed.

In the past, our residents' love and concern for wildlife has led to feeding, which is against the law because it causes the creatures to lose their natural aversion to human contact and thus endangers both us and them. Food should never be put out for any species, either overtly or through careless refuse handling. Even feeding fish can inadvertently encourage the alligators.

Recently a Florida black bear was spotted about a mile from BTP. We don't want "B is for Bear" added to our wildlife list! Enjoy but do not feed the wildlife. □



Our otter

BTP SUMMER GOLF LEAGUE STILL WELCOMING NEW PLAYERS

By Jim Stewart

The BTP Summer Golf League is going strong. Every week we have two or three foursomes, and every week we seem to get a new player or two. You don't have to play every time to be welcomed.

We play at the Hideaway Golf Club every Thursday at 8 a.m., just a few miles north of us. The course is in immaculate condition. We play the forward tees, so you do not have to be a "long hitter" to enjoy the course. Once a month, we have planned to play a different course so we can see some of the courses that are totally private in the winter months. And what a bargain. We pay \$30 at The Hideaway, which includes golf fees, a golf cart and lunch with a drink.

There are players who are trying to break 80, some trying to break 100, and some just trying to shoot below the national debt. It doesn't matter how you play. We are there just to have fun and enjoy a round of golf while getting to know some of our neighbors.

If you would like to join the group, please email Mike Powell (our coordinator) at Mike@MikePowellRealtor.com before Tuesday night of the week you want to play. □



Messrs. Cundiff, Haydock, Powell and Bake



Messrs. Rohrbaugh, Vaccarino, Waldau and Stewart

PICKLEBALL UPDATE

By Nancy Sanders

The Bell Tower Park pickleballers are playing every Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday morning from 8:30 to 10:30. If there are not enough people it may be cancelled, so we definitely would welcome more players. Tennis shoes are necessary for safe footing. Light clothing, drinking water, and sunscreen are also important because it can get really hot.

We would love to have more players, so if you see us playing please come and join us. We will teach anyone who wants to play, and we love to meet new players! You don't need a racket, as we have extras. □

ANYONE FOR MAH JONGG?

By Bee Horner

Mah Jongg (also spelled Mahjong) is a table game with rules like our card game of rummy, but played with 144 tiles somewhat similar to fancy dominoes, that originated with the ruling class of China and dates back to the time of Confucius (around 500 BC). According to Wikipedia, it was first introduced to this country around 1920 by the Abercrombie & Fitch clothing store, which bought up every Mah Jongg set they could find in China and sold about 12,000 sets in the U.S. in short order. In 1937 American rules were standardized and the National Mah Jongg League was founded in New York City. A second organization, the American Mah Jongg Association, now hosts tournaments across all North America.

In 1986, the National Mah Jongg League conducted their first Mah Jongg Cruise Tournament; this proved quite popular and has continued annually. The Mah Jongg Cruise 2009 was aboard the Royal Caribbean's fabulous megaliner *Independence of the Seas*, sailing from Fort Lauderdale to Belize City, Costa Maya and Cozumel in the western Caribbean. Royal Caribbean has hosted subsequent cruises.

Mah Jongg enthusiasts love the game for the challenge, the social time, meeting new people and enjoying the friendships they have made along the way. Aside from the fun, studies by doctors have shown in Hong Kong that the game is beneficial for individuals suffering from dementia or cognitive memory difficulties, leading to the development of Mah Jongg therapy.

Today, we are searching for residents who play or want to learn to play Mah Jongg at Bell Tower Park. Currently Mah Jongg is being offered on Monday from 1- 4 p.m. and Wednesday evening from 7- 9 p.m. in the Clubhouse to any adults, college or high school students who would like to learn or play.

You can try it out free, but if you continue you will need to purchase a scoring card in the very near future at a cost of \$9.00. If it turns out Mah Jongg is a game you want to play seriously, you will eventually want to purchase your own Mah Jongg set.

Stop by the Clubhouse for a visit at the listed times to see if this is a game that might intrigue you. Please contact Trudy Conner at 432-9365, or Bee Horner at 267-5544 or 823-9419 (cell) to discuss your interest or ask further questions. □



Some of our participants



Tools of the trade

POOL OPERATIONS REQUIRE COLLABORATION

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION A KEY

By Richard Roux

Most of our residents enjoy our BTP pools pretty much unaware of all it takes to keep them operational. First of all, our pools are monitored daily and professionally maintained 5 days per week to assure that they are clean and up to chemical standards, as monitored by the Lee County Health Department in "surprise" inspections.

Pool operations are conducted in accordance with detailed regulations dictated by the State of Florida in Section 64E-9 of the State Administrative Code. New pool signs are in process to better reflect these requirements, including:

- No glass within fenced pool area
- No furniture within 4 feet of pool
- No diving

Often when users violate one or more regulations, it is because they simply haven't read the posted rules. Other times they do not understand the rationale behind the regulation. One frequent violation seems to be bottles or drinking glasses in the pool area. Yet the rule against glass is universal for public pools. Why? For example, broken glass shards getting in the pool can result not only in cuts, but it has actually caused swimmer blindness. If any glass gets broken, the regulation requires that the pool be drained, dry vacuumed and refilled, at considerable cost. During this process, the pool can be out of service for a week or more. Infractions of these legal regulations can also result in fines and the closing of the pools by Lee County Health Inspectors.

A rule not currently posted but a matter of common sense that is relevant during the summer is to leave the pool area when there is audible thunder or visible lightning.

Beyond the legal regulations aimed at preventing injuries, there are the rules tied to good hygiene practices:

- Shower before using pool
- Swim diapers required for children not toilet trained
- No eating or drinking within 4 feet of pool

A final group of rules is not statutory, but relates to maintaining the appropriate social atmosphere of the pool area and protecting our pool furniture:

- No running on pool deck
- Maintain a "family friendly" environment
- Close umbrellas and reset chairs after use

A "family friendly" environment is one suitable for all, from grandparents to little children. Heavy drinking, nudity, and vulgar language (all recent complaints from other residents) do not meet this criterion. Because we don't have pool attendants, all residents are requested to maintain good practices at our pool out of respect for others, and when they see violations to inform other users politely of the rules.

With regard to the umbrellas, we have recently had one damaged when it was completely blown out of the table holding it. Luckily, the damage was repairable. If the last person to leave in the evening would check and be sure all the umbrellas are closed, we could avoid unnecessary damage and repair bills. □

POOL REMINDERS FOR SAFE SUMMER FUN

- No glass anywhere in the pool area!
- Leave the pool area when lightning or thunder is present
- Put down and secure umbrellas at the end of the day
- Shower off excess sunscreen before entering pool or spa
- Please maintain a "family-friendly" atmosphere

DID YOU WANT TO KNOW?



By Jim Stewart

Q. What is going on with all the new businesses north of College Parkway on U.S. 41?

A. A lot! Here is some info about recent openings in the 12600 block of S. Cleveland Ave. (some in their own words):

POLLO TROPICAL— “What began in 1988 in Miami as a simple recipe for citrus-marinated grilled chicken has evolved into a world of tropical flavors. Our chickens are free of hormones and trans-fat. From our signature grilled chicken and slow roasted mojo pork, to world-renowned Create-Your-Own Tropi-Chops, nothing surprises and delights like our fresh-made food served in a Caribbean inspired atmosphere.”

The menu has platters of chicken, pork, barbeque riblets and wings served with sides of white rice, brown rice, yellow rice, mashed potatoes, black beans, kernel corn, etc. They also have soups, salads and sandwiches. There is a kids’ menu. See the whole menu at pollotropical.com

CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL— Founded in 1993, Chipotle has grown to more than 1,600 locations. The menu consists of four main items: burritos, burrito bowls, crispy or soft tacos, and salads. The price of an item is based on your choice of chicken, pork carnitas, barbacoa (spicy shredded beef), steak, or vegetarian. As you go through cafeteria style, you can add from among rice, beans, four types of salsa, sour cream, cheese, and lettuce. Side orders include chips and guacamole or salsa. They also have a kids’ menu. See the full menu at chipotle.com

SLEEP NUMBER— The company’s signature product is the Sleep Number bed, an adjustable air mattress. The “sleep number” is a setting that controls the firmness of the mattress, adjusted by air pressure. In addition, each side of full-size and larger beds has its own chamber to allow for separate adjustment.

The Sleep Number store has moved out of Edison Mall and closer to us. Our BTP neighbor, Tim McCollor, and the Sleep Number team—James, Lexa, and Tabitha—can help you know better sleep. With a full line of beds and bedding that incorporate the most innovative technologies, plus a 100-night Sleep Guarantee, Sleep Number has something for everyone.

CULVER’S— Started in 1984 in a small Wisconsin town, Culver’s has expanded into almost 500 restaurants in over 19 states. Culver’s menu features Culver’s trademark ButterBurgers and frozen custard, but runs the gamut from pork and fish to fried chicken, salads and specialty sundaes. Its menu is divided into seven sections: sandwiches, sides, drinks, kids’ meals, dinners, salads and desserts. Items are made to order and served at tableside. □



EDITOR'S MESSAGE



**SUZANNE FERGUSON,
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Summer is slipping away faster than those otters that keep reappearing in our lakes. People are travelling, maintenance work and refurbishing continue apace, and several summer activities—golf, pickleball, tennis, water aerobics, mah jongg and bridge—roll right along despite the heat and humidity. And, fingers crossed, no tropical storms yet!

For several Bell Tower Park committees, including Communications, Activities, Buildings and Amenities, and Finance, planning takes priority in the summer, and clearly we are in for a busy and productive fall. Last year at this time we conducted a survey for activities that residents might want. Several began, and others will, including a “board game night” at the Clubhouse.

The Communications Committee has been trading representatives with the Activities Committee to construct a more open, active system for developing activities, and looks to open a web page that will be called “Connections” which will enable people to put together groups for theater parties or sports evenings, a book club, seminars on subjects such as using smart phones and tablets, computer photo editing, or whatever someone wants to “float” for responses. Anyone who would like to participate in developing this site (or any new activity, for that matter) can contact me (scf@case.edu) or our webmaster, Richard Roux (richard.roux@ymail.com) to get involved.

As always, the staff of *Bell Tower Notes* hopes you will enjoy and learn from this newsletter. I am especially interested in what you may think of the two long-time resident profiles, as they are part of a project of remembering the history of Bell Tower Park. While I have others lined up, I am still seeking residents who have stories to share about “how we grew.” □

Suzanne Ferguson

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WWW.BELLTOWERPARKCOMMUNITY.COM**

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