



Bell Tower Property Owner Association's

BELL TOWER NOTES

MEET OUR NEW CAM

By Richard Roux

Special Points of Interest:

- Lindabury Photos (P. 3)
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As most everyone knows by now, our previous Community Association Manager, Scott Thompson, left Bell Tower Park in November of this year. He has been replaced by Bill Berthold through the Cardinal Management Group.

Bill was born in Charleston, West Virginia, and moved to Orlando, Florida, when he was six years old. He lived in Orlando for two years and then moved to St. Petersburg Beach where he grew up. He and his wife have lived and worked in Ohio, New York, California and Arizona; they returned to Florida in 2000.

Bill has pursued a career in community property management and upscale country club management since 1990. He holds a Florida CAM License and is a CCM (Certified Club Manager). He has been married for 28 years. His wife has pursued a career in banking. They have no children.

They live in Cape Coral, and Bill enjoys cooking, wine collecting, boating and sports such as surfing, tennis and golf. Bill is looking forward to working with our residents, Boards of Directors, vendors and all of our committees. □



Bill Berthold

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REVISED, RESTATED RULES AND REGULATIONS READY FOR MEMBERSHIP

By Richard Roux and Suzanne Ferguson

Last year the POA utilized its attorneys (Goede, Adamczyk & DeBoest, PLL) to update two of its governing documents, its Declaration of Covenants (DOC) and By-laws. This year the POA worked with these attorneys to restate (i.e., update) its third governing document, its Rules and Regulations. These three documents form the set of governing Documents that is important both to our current owners and to any prospective buyers, who get to review them prior to finalizing any offer to buy a unit.

The Rules and Regulation restatement reflected changes in the restated DOC and several administrative rules (such as our long-term hurricane shutter rule) that had been adopted over the last several years. The restated document was approved at the September POA monthly meeting, however, it was noted that there were organizational and grammatical problems in the document.

CONTINUED ON P.3 ➤

AED/CPR TRAINING PROVES ITS WORTH; NEW SESSIONS SCHEDULED

On-Site Training Available to Residents

By Richard Roux

It's been a year since the POA purchased an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device for our Clubhouse and sponsored on-campus CPR/AED training for approximately 40 of our residents. Fortunately, because I coordinated the classes with South Trail Fire District, I attended several of our training sessions. This past month, while I was on an ocean cruise, another passenger collapsed in the dining room. It took me about 45 seconds to determine what was happening and go to the victim, where I found the crew calling the ship's doctor but not providing any hands-on assistance. My training kicked in: I tore off my suit jacket and started through the CPR checklist for the completely unresponsive patient. Fortunately, I found that he was actually breathing. What a relief, I thought, that CPR would not be required. The victim came around in about a minute, and the ship's medical emergency crew arrived about two-and-a-half minutes after that.

Had this been a serious medical emergency, my presence would have provided CPR help approximately three-and-a-half minutes sooner than the ship's medical staff, theoretically improving his survival chances by 35%. So, the usefulness and importance of this training was reinforced for me. The appreciation expressed by the victim's wife and the dining room staff was most memorable.

In case last year's training is getting "fuzzy" in the minds of our BTP attendees, South Trail's representative, Christie Knudsen, will return to our Clubhouse for two AED/CPR training sessions on the following dates: Wednesday, January 28, 1:30-3:30, and Thursday, January 29, 9:30-11:30. The cost per person of \$5 is for supplies. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion, not a certification card. (Anyone needing certification should sign up on-line for one of the numerous CPR/AED classes offered in Lee County by the Red Cross or Lee County EMS.) Our Bell Tower Park class sizes are limited to 10 individuals and will be filled on a first-come basis. Reservations should be made with Karen at the CAM Office. Additional classes could be scheduled depending on need.

Incidentally, South Trail Fire District's request for additional tax support was approved by the voters in our tax district this summer. The impact will take effect in 2015. The additional funding will allow South Trail to continue to provide their current, highly-rated services which favorably impact our condo insurance rates. (See also the article by Christie Knudsen, Public Education Officer, South Trail Fire District located on p. 11.) □

GAMING THE GATES: TIPS AND TACTICS

By Richard Roux

With the amount of gate traffic growing upon the return of our snowbirds, it's time to remind all our residents of our current gate utilization guidelines in an effort to promote efficient traffic flow and reduce accidental gate arm strikes.

First, many vehicle navigation and GPS programs continue to direct visitors to the Andrea Lane gate where these visitors cannot acquire access. We have not been able to correct this with the GPS providers. It is essential that all residents alert their visitors and vendors to come only to the U.S. 41 gate, where their resident-established access can be verified. Also, twice annually all residents should double check to insure that their access list is up to date. Envera contact information is on the Website and is available from the CAM Office.

The Andrea Lane gate is now preferably our primary residents' gate. Toward that end, the entrance sign on Andrea Lane has been removed. All residents traveling north or south on U.S. 41 are encouraged to use only the Andrea Lane gate, whenever feasible. This will reduce congestion and the visitor access confusion that has been occurring in mixed, (i.e., resident/visitor) traffic. Such confusion has caused many visitors angst and delays.

Additionally, when using your clicker please wait to activate that device until the gate arm has started down after the entrance of the vehicle in front of you. Then you'll know that you are in control of the arm. Some accidental gate strikes have occurred because residents didn't realize the arm was still under the control of the previous vehicle. Your adherence to these guidelines is greatly appreciated, as it will minimize the breaking off of the arm that has plagued us in the past. □

RESTATED RULES & REGULATIONS (continued from the front page)

Our Communications Committee was then charged with proofreading and reorganizing the document without changing any of its content or meaning. Committee members Suzanne Ferguson and Tim Devins, conferring with Board Liaison Richard Roux, spent many hours working with the document, reconciling it with the Restated DOC and By-Laws, proofreading it, and providing a paragraph numbering system. This numbering system will allow for future revisions and additions to be easily incorporated.

The resulting document was reviewed by the Board and given its final stamp of approval at the November POA Board Meeting. The Restated R&Rs now join the Restated DOC and By-Laws on the Community's Website and are available from the CAM Office. Owners should take this opportunity to review the Rules & Regulations and pass them to any renters, if applicable. □

BTP RESIDENT'S PHOTOS FEATURED IN "TROPICALIA"

By Suzanne Ferguson

Do you admire those reader-submitted photographs to the Sunday *News-Press* "Tropicalia" Section? I always look eagerly for them, and on November 16th I was delighted to see a beautiful Gulf Fritillary butterfly and a spunky Red-bellied woodpecker on facing pages.

Lo and behold, both were taken by our neighbor, Joyce Lindabury, the butterfly at Lakes Park and the woodpecker just outside her BTP window. Joyce has kindly shared them with *Bell Tower Notes*, and here they are:



Gulf Fritillary Butterfly



Red Bellied Woodpecker

RESIDENT-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES HAVE WEBSITE CLASSIFIEDS

By Suzanne Ferguson

The Activities Committee now sponsors an area of Classified Ads on the Bell Tower Park Community Website where you can advertise an activity, request that one be started, or find out how to join one already in progress!

These activities are specifically resident-directed. If your desired activity does not require the use of a BTP amenity (such as the Clubhouse), all you have to do is be willing to communicate with people who answer your “ad.” If it does require the Clubhouse or other common facility, you can request the rules for such use from the BTP Webmaster, who will send you a copy and help you schedule your activity so as not to conflict with others.

This is an opportunity for people to find new friends for activities or events that interest them. Just go to the BTP Website Directory and select Classifieds, then click on the Category, “Resident-Directed Activities” to see what is there or post your own “ad.”

Each listing must contain a concise description of the activity (e.g., Group to attend Florida Repertory’s production of “Murder at the Howard Johnson’s” between December 10 and 15; Game Night at the Clubhouse; Class in using Photoshop), plus your contact information: name and phone number. You should have ready all other relevant information, such as times and prices, for when you are contacted. The Webmaster will remove all outdated ads as appropriate.

This new Website feature is in response to requests for activities beyond what the Activities Committee itself is able to accommodate. Like the Summer Golf League, Pickleball, and the increasingly popular Mah Jongg sessions, activities listed in the Classifieds are to be initiated and run by those who want to participate in the activities—whether just a few or many. Dinner Clubs, a Book Club, trips to cultural or sports events: the possibilities are endless. □

Classifieds

[Home](#) » [Classifieds](#) » [RI](#)

RESIDENT-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES

[Add an Item](#) [Edit / Delete Items](#)

ACTIVITY OFFERED- PAINTING CLASS

Water Color painting classes at the BTP Clubhouse provided by a professional artist. Proposed schedule: Wed. or Thurs. afternoons, 2-5 PM, starting mid January. Cost of each class would be \$20. [\[more\]](#)



ACTIVITY SOUGHT- Beginner Bridge

Looking for other residents who would like to learn to play bridge and then play as a social (fun) activity. Contact Richard at richard.roux@gmail.com. [\[more\]](#)



These ads for a painting class and beginner bridge are two current examples of what you’ll see in the classified ad section of our Website.

COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL HIATUS

By Suzanne Ferguson

In early October our community’s Closed-Circuit TV Channel 195 went off-line. Owner Joel Bloom, who had been nursing the aged equipment along for the last two years, finally declared it dead. The video card was irreparable and so old it could not be replaced.

The Communications Committee set about finding a solution to keeping our convenient TV “bulletin board” on the air and quickly discovered that an updated version of the equipment and software is indeed available from VCTV, the original vendor, for about \$4550, a price that works out to less than \$10 per household.

To do due diligence, we are also looking into the possibility of cobbling together a system with a laptop or tablet computer using MS Powerpoint or equivalent software. The Committee plans to have a recommendation for the Board at its December meeting.

Meanwhile, residents will have to check the Bell Tower Park Community Website for events and other information. For some, this will be an opportunity to sign up for the Website if you haven’t done so (go to belltowerparkcommunity.com and follow the instructions for signing in); for others, we can only apologize for the interruption in service. □

BELL TOWER PARK'S AGATHA CHRISTIE: MYSTERIES SET IN 18TH-CENTURY VENICE

By Johanna Hill
Volunteer BTP Library Coordinator

Unlike a public library where patrons arrive armed with lists of books or authors and are pretty sure of getting what they want or at the very least can put a desired book on hold, a community library functions on the generosity of donations. What we get is what we read. With our Bell Tower Park library of limited size, we may have to resort to reading books by unfamiliar authors. I found myself in exactly that situation last summer. I needed a book. Which unfamiliar author do I choose? Looking at what was available, I was drawn to a book by its title, *Interrupted Aria*. I enjoy opera. The author? Beverle Graves Myers--never heard of her, but I needed a book. I borrowed the book.

In no time, I was fascinated by the story of Tito Amato, an eighteenth-century Venetian soprano castrato singer and part-time, self-styled detective. It was just a few days later, in this small, fact-is-stranger-than-fiction world we live in, I learned that the "Bev" in our Pilates class is none other than *Interrupted Aria's* author, Beverle Graves Myers. It was a WOW moment!

The author of six Tito Amato mysteries, twenty short stories, several articles and a stand-alone novel, *Face of the Enemy* (co-authored with Joanne Dobson), Beverle Graves Myers is a resident of Bell Tower Park. She is a graduate of the University of Louisville with a B.A. in History and an M.D. degree from its School of Medicine. For ten years she worked as a psychiatrist in a public mental health clinic in rural Kentucky. Wanting more freedom to structure her life and "finding psychiatry more interesting in theory than in practice," she retired. When one retires there is often the question, now what? Beverle was looking for a second career, and she had her answer ready.

As a child, she devoured the mysteries of Nancy Drew and became an avid reader of Agatha Christie. Relying on her love of mysteries, knowledge of opera and interest in history, she would try her hand at writing. She admits to being an introvert at heart, so the need to spend a great deal of quiet time alone, thinking of the characters she would conceive and develop, appealed to her.

With the support and encouragement of her husband Lawrence, her family, and close friends who are writers, with her computer on her lap and baroque music on her CD player, surrounded by art books, copies of articles, and the notes of her six months of research, Bev tried her hand at writing an historical novel. It took her a year and a half to finish her first book, *Interrupted Aria*.

Bev says she was lucky to find a literary agent in a very short time, but finding a publisher took longer. It was her good fortune that her agent found a publishing house, Poison Pen Press, which publishes only mysteries. The editor, an opera fan, would indeed publish her book. Her joy in finding a publisher was somewhat over shadowed by the difficulty of releasing her manuscript for final edit and publication. "Rather like sending your child off to college," she said.

Over the next few years, Beverle wrote a series of five more Tito Amato mysteries that tell of Tito's skill at seeking justice for the accused and unfortunate in the decadent Venice of his time. "A friendless stranger, the Jews of the Venetian ghetto, a carnival dwarf, a wise woman of the Old Religion, and a murdered servant whose master would simply like to forget her" are characters in *Painted Veil*, *Cruel Music*, *The Iron Tongue of Midnight*, *Her Deadly Mischief* and *Whispers of Vivaldi*. All the titles, plus *Face of the Enemy*, a World War II era mystery, can be borrowed from the Lakes Regional Library or through its interlibrary loan system. E-books are available for purchase through Amazon. More information can be found at Beverle's website: www.beverlegravesmyers.com.

Beverle is pleased her books are distributed to such far away places as New Zealand and Australia. She communicates with English-speaking people all over the world, and that, she says, is the best part about being an author. On October 10th, she gave a fascinating and well-received talk on her work to the Friends of the Lakes Regional Library, with a number of Bell Tower Park residents in the audience. □



Beverle Myers, Author

TEA AND FASHION SHOW BRINGS OUT THE LADIES

By Suzanne Ferguson with Bee Horner

The afternoon of September 13th marked the date of the first Bell Tower Park Ladies' Tea and Fashion Show, an event so delightful that a follow-up is already being planned for April 2015.

On entering the front doors of our Clubhouse, guests were transported into the ambience of an English Tea Room as they were greeted by committee-member, Susan Knutson, dressed in a beautiful rose-colored dress and hat that matched the table settings. These consisted of white tablecloths, pink napkins, and a “nosegay” of a pink-and-white rose with baby’s breath.

The tea was provided by BTP’s Activities Committee, who brought vintage teapots, cups, and saucers from their own china cupboards and made charming tea sandwiches, including the traditional cucumber and butter, supplemented by a tower of sweet treats on each table. Thirty-five attendees, all dressed to the nines for the occasion, enjoyed the event.

The wardrobe of elegant travel outfits for the Fashion show was provided by Patchington of Bell Tower Shops, whose manager, Roxanne Crego, is a Bell Tower Park resident. She was assisted by Roberta Findley, who did the descriptions and dressed the models, all of whom were our own Bell Tower Park residents: Jo Johnson, Bee Horner, Cathy Davenport, Jane Kearns, Trudy Connor, and Ronnie Vaccarino. Karen Wiss of Patchington also assisted. All the attendees were offered 10% off any purchases at Patchington within a three-day time period.

Another aspect of the event was a bazaar table set up by the charity, Human Trafficking Awareness Partnership, Inc., which sells hand-made jewelry and other decorated objects to support their cause, which was described by their representative, Nola Theiss, Executive Director. It is sobering to note that human trafficking—mainly of girls and women—is all too present even here in south-west Florida.

So there was food for the mind as well as the body and an array of colorful, easy-fitting and easy-care clothing to brighten our new season. We are looking forward to another wonderful Tea and Fashion Show in April, 2015. □



Bee Horner, Model



Jo Johnson, Model

ANYONE FOR TEA?



Guests enjoy the afternoon



An elegant setting

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE OFFERS A SEASON FULL OF EVENTS

By Susan Knutson

Fall has produced a cornucopia of enjoyable activities sponsored by the Activities Committee. We are happy to say that the 2014 Halloween Party was a great success, with 50 attendees and toe-tapping live music by Yard Dog Charlie.

Many of our residents dressed up for the occasion, and it was terrific to see their imaginations at work! Prizes of gift certificates from Bed, Bath & Beyond were awarded for best costumes, and door prizes of hand-decorated pumpkins were given out as well. The best ladies' costume(s) were judged to be the Three Blind Mice (Connie Dunn, Shirley Faust, and Mary Lekan), while Ted Sanders won for the men with his musketeer outfit. Joyce and Carl Ferrari were very scary as zombies from "The Walking Dead." (See photos on p. 8)

The Committee has been very busy planning for the holiday season as well as the New Year! Our Holiday Party is scheduled for December 13th, and we urge you to mark your calendars now and watch for the flyer with all the particulars. It will be a wonderful way to celebrate both the holidays as well as welcoming many of our Snow Birds home. Also in December: a theater party at the Broadway Palm to see the production of "A Christmas Carol."

For January we are finalizing details for a very exciting one-woman show with the portrayal of the ORIGINAL Duchess of Windsor, in our very own Clubhouse. Specifics will be announced soon. February 21st will be Oldies Night at the Clubhouse. Get your dancing shoes out and BYOB for an evening of music and fellowship. For March 28th we are working on an outdoor Hoedown Party with great food and wonderful music. The recent Tea and Fashion Show put on for us by Patchington of Bell Tower Shops was so successful that we have scheduled another for April 11th 2015!

Don't forget to come out for our 3rd Sunday of the month "Coffee @ the Clubhouse" between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. This continues to be a very well-attended event with friends and neighbors catching up with each other and enjoying a "cup of Joe" and a bagel and/or something sweet to eat!

Many thanks to every member of the Activities Committee as well as our spouses for all the time and effort devoted to providing events that bring our residents together. Thanks for helping to make our community such a friendly and welcoming place to call home. Come on out and support our events – there is something for everyone! Hope to see you soon!

Note: The mystery chef of the magnificent Cherry Cobbler that took top prize at our "Taste of the World" event earlier this year has come forward: she is Ruth Franklin. □

HALLOWEEN REVELLERS.....



Connie Dunn, Shirley Faust, and Mary Lekan as “3 Blind Mice”



Joyce and Carl Ferrari walked in from “Walking Dead”



Ted Sanders as d’Artagnan

PLANNED FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED

BUILDING AND AMENITIES REPORT

By Richard Roux

As reported in the August 2014 edition, several improvements to our facilities were on the drawing board but not completed. Since that time essentially all of these pending actions have been finished.

In our fitness area, the free-weight room expansion was completed, and in the gym the outdated Nautilus multi-station machine was replaced by a state-of-the-art BATCA Fusion 4 modular gym system, a strength machine accommodating four users at once. New treadmills and a recumbent elliptical machine were also installed. (See photos.)

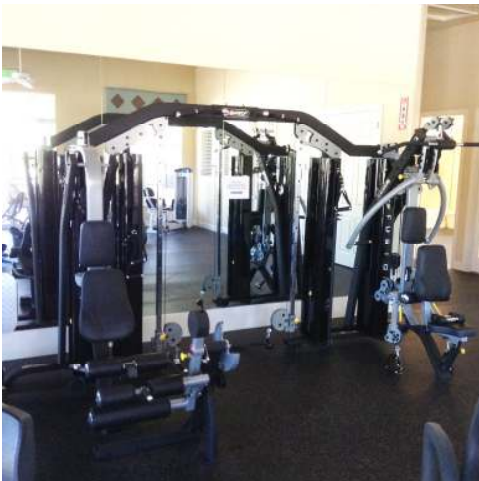
At our pools, additional lounge chairs were ordered and a new electric spa heater was installed, replacing our propane heater. We anticipate it will pay for itself during the first year of operation from reduced energy costs.

Finally, relative to roads and signage, residents can observe that we have installed our new Clubhouse sign and placed a new pole light at our Andrea Lane entrance, where we rebuilt the road shoulders that had washed out over the years from heavy rains and traffic.

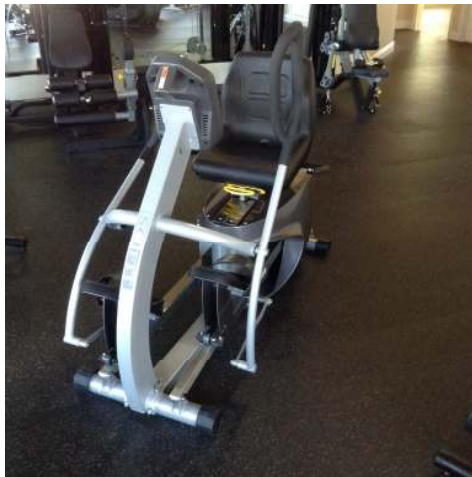
Still to be completed is the repair/rebuild of our pool area pergolas, as we have yet to find a contractor willing to do the work at a reasonable price. We will likely defer the pergola work until spring 2015, at which time the main pool will be closed for a major resurfacing. □



Clubhouse sign



New BACTA multi-station exercise machine



New recumbent elliptical machine



Andrea Ln. Pole light

PROFILES: SUSIE AND RICK ROHRBAUGH— DOUBLING DOWN AT BELL TOWER PARK

Interview by Suzanne Ferguson

(Editor's note: this interview concludes a series begun in BTN 3.4 of long-term residents of Bell Tower Park, on the occasion of our Tenth Year of Community.)

Susie and Rick Rohrbaugh were among several new residents of West Hyde Park Drive who moved in shortly before Hurricane Charlie (August 13, 2004). When they saw the weather report at 11 p.m. the previous night, they decided to get out while there was still time. Their bags were already packed, and they left immediately for their daughter's home in Parkland on the east coast of Florida. Crossing State Route 80 around the southern edge of Lake Okeechobee in the middle of the night, they shared the nearly deserted road with some odd-looking vehicles that turned out to be Storm-Chasers!

One reason they chose their second-floor Carriage Home at BTP was their understanding of the excellent "commercial standard" construction, so they weren't worried about leaving their new home (even though the developer-provided shutters hadn't fit). Returning the day after the storm, Rick and his son-in-law found minor damage to the soffits, removed food from the refrigerator and freezer, and returned to Parkland until electricity was restored.

The Rohrbaughs had already been living in Tampa, in a detached house, when Rick had the opportunity to move here for his job with Trane, the air conditioning company, so they knew what to look for in a Florida residence; they also knew that they didn't want to go back into a single-family home. They were originally interested in a villa, but after looking for an entire week with an excellent realtor, they came to Bell Tower Park and immediately felt at home in the wonderful space and light of the second-floor Carriage Home. The price was right, and it was brand new.

Rick and Susie met in grade school in Logansport Indiana, and both went to ISU-Terre Haute. In the early years of their marriage, Rick served in the military. Their most notable posting was to Seoul, South Korea, for 13 months in 1972-73, where they lived in the U.N. Village overlooking the Han River and enjoyed the society of other young couples. They also lived in New York (Westchester County), Massachusetts (Shrewsbury) and other places before landing in Tampa.

Susie was a school teacher, but retired when they moved to Ft. Myers. Rick retired four years ago. Susie began to think it was time to look for a first-floor residence. Once again, they began looking for a villa. They found a couple that they liked with relatively low maintenance fees, but when they began adding up the costs of taking care of their own roof and exterior painting (in concert with a next door neighbor who might not agree with them), CDC fees (essentially, the buyers' paying off a loan taken out by the developer to finance roads and amenities in the development), and sometimes separate amenities fees, the properties became less appealing.

After they had looked for a period of months, Susie proposed that they look for a first-floor unit at Bell Tower Park. After all, they loved the central location, admired the quality of construction and the size of the rooms (and walk-in closets), as well as the two-car garages. They were comfortable with the level of rules of the deed-restricted community. Rick liked bicycling the Linear Park and Lakes Park. Susie liked the pools. Although there were only a few units available in the winter of 2014, they found one they liked on Chelsey Lane, totally renovated it, and moved in February.



Susie and Rick Rohrbaugh

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SUSIE AND RICK ROHRBAUGH (Continued from the preceding page)

Rick and Susie like to take long vacations—since Rick’s retirement they’ve spent a month in an oceanside cottage in Bar Harbor, Maine, and a month in a cabin in West Yellowstone. They’ve spent time on North Carolina’s Outer Banks and in the Adirondacks, taking the “Blue Highways” through historical places. They’ve visited the restaurant of “Fried Green Tomatoes”—twice. Now they’re contemplating a month visiting the National Parks of Utah. Being able to turn off the water, set the alarms and just leave is the icing on the cake of condominium living at Bell Tower Park.

In their “at-home” times Rick is a Volunteer Naturalist for Lee County’s land acquisition program called Conservation 20-20. He leads guided walks on Pine Island during season. This summer he joined the new BTP Summer Golf League. Susie likes to read and play duplicate bridge at the MacGregor Bridge Club. Early most mornings she can be found doing her water aerobics and swimming at the Avon Park Pool. □

NOTES FROM SOUTH TRAIL FIRE & RESCUE

By Christie Knudsen
Public Education Specialist, STFD

To South Trail Residents, from your Fire Department. South Trail Fire & Rescue personnel would like to share a note of thanks and an announcement with the South Trail community. First, a special and heartfelt thank you to the residents of the South Trail Fire & Rescue District for your support on the millage cap referendum. At the August primary election, all precincts in the South Trail Fire District voted in favor of changing the maximum millage rate from 2.0 to 2.5.

Speaking on behalf of all members of the South Trail Fire District, Fire Chief William Lombardo said, “We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the support the community has shown to the fire district. We love being part of the South Fort Myers community and promise to be there for you should you find yourself needing our services. Thank you again!”

The change in the maximum millage rate does not mean that there will be an automatic increase in your property taxes in 2015-2016. The change in the millage cap simply gives your elected Fire Commissioners the ability to adopt a millage rate not to exceed 2.5. You are encouraged to make your voice heard and to be a part of the budgeting process for your fire district at the next public budget meetings in September 2015.

Second, we have an important announcement to South Trail Fire District residents. Effective September 1, 2014, the Insurance Services Office’s (ISO) Public Protection Classification for the District is now a 3/3x. The improved ISO rating from a 4/9 to a 3/3x is significant because it may lower insurance premiums for property owners in the South Trail Fire District. (The lower the numbers, which are based on such things as proximity to hydrants, stations, equipment, public education, etc., the better the rating.)

We encourage property owners to contact their insurance company to check if lower premiums are available because of the 3/3x ISO rating for the South Trail Fire District. The South Trail Fire Prevention Bureau, at 482-8030, can also provide a letter advising of the ISO rating for your property. □

PICKLEBALL CONTINUES NEW PLAYERS WELCOME

The fall/winter hours for Pickleball continue to be 8:30 to about 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday. Join the “regulars” east of the tennis courts (the courts are superimposed on the basketball court) for fast-moving fun in a pleasant, supportive environment. Wear athletic shoes and comfortable clothes. Paddles and balls are supplied. □

REOPENING YOUR UNIT

There're Things to be Done!

By Richard Roux

Discussions with our CAM indicate that our returning snowbirds should initially take actions to check their A/C unit(s) and filters, check ceilings for any water damage marks from roof problems, check the date on the hot water tank (as these heaters may require change-out every 7-10 years), inspect and clean dryer ducts, install new fire alarm and thermostat batteries and install new gate "clicker" batteries.

Beyond those actions, owners should plan their annual maintenance actions well in advance of their return back north. Tim Kidd serves on our POA Board as the Liaison for Maintenance Activities. At the February 2013 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 between 6-10 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 WD-40 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. □

LAKES PARK HOLIDAYS: ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE

By Jim Stewart

From December 14th through December 30th, the Holiday Express miniature train runs through its tropical winter wonderland from 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The 15-minute round trip along the northern part of the park runs beside a lake, through a tunnel and past several holiday-themed displays and costs \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. (Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.) This railway, maintained by volunteers, has been open for holiday trips since 1995.

The Park will also have a Holiday Bounce House, although the times have not been announced yet. On December 13th, the 6th annual Sam Galloway Ford Lakeside Country Bash benefitting the Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation will take the stage. The “Let It Ride Tour” will feature Brantley Gilbert with special guests Tyler Farr, Colt Ford, Parmalee, and Chase Bryant. Details of the event can be found at www.LeeParks.org in the events calendar. □

TWO MORE NEW RESTAURANTS ON THE U.S. 41 CORRIDOR: SEÑOR TEQUILA’S FINE MEXICAN GRILL AND ZAXBY’S

By Jim Stewart

The restaurant that has been vacant for a long time, just north of the Barnes & Noble bookstore, will soon re-open as Señor Tequila’s Fine Mexican Grill Jalisco Style. Jalisco is a state in Mexico containing the second largest urban area in the country. Many well-known Mexican icons – including sombreros, rodeos, the Mexican Hat Dance and Mariachi Music—originated in culture-rich Jalisco. It is also the birthplace of tequila.

Señor Tequila’s has two locations, one in Naples and one in Bonita Springs. The restaurant has a menu that offers almost 100 selections, ranging from appetizers and salads to soups, fajitas, chicken, meats, dinner combinations and seafood, as well as other specialties, all presented in a traditional homemade Mexican style that has been around for 22 years in an authentic Mexican family setting.

Another restaurant that has opened since our previous issue of *Bell Tower Notes* is Zaxby’s, just north of where the Goodwill Store was knocked down and a little south of Page Field. Zaxby’s is a franchised chain of casual dining restaurants offering prepared-to-order chicken wings, chicken fingers, sandwiches, and salads. The company operates primarily in the Southeastern United States with more than 600 locations.

Dipping sauces offered with a chicken finger order range from mild to the moderate “Zax sauce” up to the intensely hot “Nuclear” and “Insane.” Look for the blue awnings in the 11700 block of S. Cleveland Ave.

Both restaurants have some great coupon and gift certificate offers on their websites. □

RECYCLING TIP

By Richard Roux

Blowing trash within the community has been a problem noted at recent POA meetings. This issue is exacerbated by our recycle bins. While our Rules & Regulations require the use of lidded, solid-sided trash containers, our County-provided recycle bins do not have lids. Material can (and does) blow out of them. The responsibility for picking up such material is the owner’s.

Here’s a tip. Every owner should be using at least two recycle bins. They are free for the asking from Lee County Solid Waste, or you can request a second one from your recycle truck driver. These containers should be stacked at the curb with the lightest weight (blowable) materials in the lower container and heavy (non-blowable such as glass bottles) in the top bin. □

MAH JONGG RECRUITING NEW PLAYERS FOR THE SEASON

By Suzanne Ferguson

The group playing Mah Jongg in the Clubhouse that began last winter wants everyone to know that they are continuing to seek new players. They welcome anyone who just wants to come and watch; they will teach anyone who wants to try it out. They meet twice a week: Monday afternoon 1-3 p.m. and Wednesday evening 7-9 p.m. Contacts are Trudy Connor (432-9365) and Bee Horner (267-5544). (For more information, see Bee's article in *Bell Tower Notes* Volume 3.4, which is available on the Website.) □



BTP Majh Jongg Group (Bee Horner, Joy Porter, Vickie Barnes, and Joyce Lindabury.

Come Celebrate The Holidays

Join us December 13th, 2014

6 to 9 PM

Bell Tower Clubhouse

Dinner Buffet, Dessert and Live Music
BYOB

\$25.00 a person (cash only)

Ticket Sales (clubhouse)

Nov 28 - 2 to 4 PM

Dec 1st - 10 to 12 AM

Dec 3rd - 7 to 9 PM

Dec 4th - 5 to 7 PM

Dec 5th - 2 to 4 PM



For Information call 239-989-7403
Ronnie Vaccarino

DID YOU WANT TO KNOW?



By Jim Stewart

Q. When newspapers and television report weather forecasts, they list the future temperatures on, say, a Friday, as High 80 and Low 60. Does that mean it will be 60 on Friday morning or Saturday morning?

A. According to Jim Farrell, WINK TV's Chief Meteorologist, "When they write 85/64 they mean the 64 will be the low the morning after the high, so the next day. Very confusing!"

Q. A restaurant in Maine had the following trivia questions on their mat. (You have to try to provide the correct answers yourself before peeking at the answers.)

1. What country planted sugar cane in Martinique in 1654?
2. Who attempted to portray Bill Clinton in the TV movie *A Child's Wish*?
3. What skin magazine publisher claimed he had "a right to be tasteless under the First Amendment?"
4. What dog used to be called a Lesser Dane?
5. What was Miami quarterback Bob Griese the first NFL player to wear in a game, in 1977?
6. What motel chain can be reached at 1-800-800-8000?
7. What foreign country has the most U.S. citizens living there?
8. What three planets in our solar system show signs of oxygen in their atmospheres?
9. Who had a pistol in his hip pocket when he addressed the U.N. General Assembly in 1974?
10. What hasn't a nulliparous woman done?

A. 1. France 2. Bill Clinton 3. Larry Flynt 4. The Dalmatian 5. Glasses 6. Super Eight 7. Mexico 8. Venus, Earth, Mars 9. Yasser Arafat 10. Given birth

Q. When the snowbirds return, will Florida be picking fresh citrus?

A. Yes! Fresh citrus will be picked starting in late October. And there is plenty of citrus to harvest. Florida citrus is harvested from close to 569,000 sprawling acres, carefully handpicked from lush groves and then washed, graded and packaged to produce more than 80% of the U.S. citrus supply. The value of the citrus is worth over a billion dollars.

And if you have ever driven to Orlando using the middle of the State you can appreciate how many groves are our neighbors. Florida's Gulf Citrus Production area encompasses five counties located in southwest Florida: Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Glades and Lee counties. These five counties have over 169,000 acres and they produce the first grapefruits available each season with the highest quality available. Hendry County has more orange trees planted than any other Florida County with over 25 million trees.

During the 2011-12 season, Florida harvested 170.9 million boxes of citrus. Each box of oranges weighs about 90 pounds. Popular Navel oranges are harvested from November -January. Valencias are picked from March-July with several other brands harvested in between these months. In addition to juice and fresh fruit, citrus is used to produce other by-products such as oils, fragrances, flavorings and animal feed. □



**SUZANNE FERGUSON,
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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

With this issue we are beginning our fourth year of publication of *Bell Tower Notes*. Many changes have taken place at Bell Tower Park since we began reporting in November 2012, with many enhancements to our community that range from the institutionalizing of our community Website as a primary source of timely news distribution to continually up-grading landscaping, a greatly expanded social calendar, new sports and games at the Clubhouse, and as we like to say, "much more." In this issue, we tell how you can start an activity of your own choosing by creating a Classified Ad on our Website.

Bell Tower Notes itself has reflected the maturing of the community. Some of our features are well-established: Jim Stewart's "Did You Want to Know" column and his reports on new businesses nearby; reports and photos from social events; and notes and stories on community and local issues that affect us, such as instructional classes on CPR/AED at our Clubhouse or the tax millage proposal for the South Trail Fire and Rescue district that passed in April. We try to keep abreast of nearby attractions such as the Farmer's Market and Miniature Train Schedule at Lakes Park.

We welcome interviews with interesting residents, such as mystery-writer Beverle Myers, on p. 5 of this issue. We are always looking out for new contributors and new perspectives. Let us hear from you about what features you would like to see in *Bell Tower Notes* this year. And Happy Holidays from the *BTN* Staff.

Suzanne Ferguson
Editor

**REMEMBER: WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.BELLTOWERPARKCOMMUNITY.COM**

POOLS CLOSED
By Order of the Health Department

Wouldn't this be an upsetting sign to see posted at our pools? It could happen. There is a Florida State law that prohibits glass from being brought inside our pool fencing, a law that continues to be violated despite being posted at our pools and the publication of numerous pleas in our newsletter and on our Website.

Wine and beer bottles continue to be brought into the pool area. It's not about the beverages, *it's about the glass*. Yes, residents might forget about this rule, and visitors might not be aware of or understand the requirement. All residents are requested to help politely remind pool attendees of this rule.

The above notice would be shocking greeting to find at either of our pools. □