



Bell Tower Property Owner Association's

BELL TOWER NOTES

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JOYCE LINDABURY

POA Board at the Annual Meeting: from left, Richard Roux, Donald Boreman, Suzanne Ferguson, Roger Brownell, John Davenport (partly hidden), and Manager Nick Russo

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GREETINGS FROM THE POA BOARD

By Donald Boreman, President

This year's POA Annual Meeting and the Board's Organizational Meetings resulted in some changes that we hope will help us as we meet our current and future challenges. As reported in the Special Edition of *Bell Tower Notes* in early April, Suzanne Ferguson joined the Board as a new Director, replacing long-time member Tim Kidd, who, we are grateful to say, is staying on our "team" as Chair of the Maintenance Committee. Replacing Tim as Vice-President is John Davenport. Richard Roux continues as Secretary, while I have taken on the job of President, and will continue as Treasurer for the present. Roger Brownell, transitioning from President to Director, has been asked to take on the major task of managing the updating and enforcement plans for our Condo Documents, including our Rules.

I welcome this opportunity to move forward with a number of initiatives already in progress to make our community a better place to live. Over the past year we made a major transition in upgrading our security system with Envera (see story on p. 2), hired what we hope will be a more responsive pool management company, and replaced our defunct playground equipment (see photo, p.10), including the installation of safety mulch.

CONTINUED ON P.2 ➤

SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE

By John Davenport, Safety Liaison

The following are some updates on issues the (newly renamed—formerly Security) Safety Committee has been working on:



ENVERA: The recent upgrades have been well received by our residents. A good portion of our residents have purchased the new stickers for their vehicles and the system has been working extremely efficiently. The new guest kiosk has also been working well, with minimal waiting times to enter the Park and much more effective identification of guests and vendors. Residents and guests alike have expressed appreciation for the two new LED arms that have been installed on each gate. The new cameras have been instrumental in identifying several “gate-crashers,” as well.

FIRE SAFETY: The Chairman of the Safety Committee has been trying to contact our Fire Marshal to inspect the Preserve areas on the property to see if we can cut back the overgrowth away from many of our buildings to prevent a potential fire hazard in the extremely dry conditions we are experiencing.

SIGNAGE: The Chairman and a member of the Community have been working with Nick Russo, our CAM, on replacing and adding new signage in the Park. Some areas where new, more uniform signage is being discussed include the resident gate entrance, our Clubhouse and Fitness Center and a few other areas.

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS: The Safety Committee has been discussing ways to enforce traffic violations in the Park. We have received numerous complaints, as well as witnessing for ourselves, vehicles speeding and running STOP signs. This will be discussed further and recommendations made to the POA. Meanwhile, take it easy! The time people save by going 30 miles an hour rather than 25 saves perhaps half a minute between the four corners stop signs and the east end of BTP Blvd. □

BOARD GREETINGS (Continued from P.1)

The Buildings and Amenities Committee continues to work on the Clubhouse refurbishing; exterior and Clubhouse lighting improvements are moving to completion; and several large Banyan trees on West Hyde Park (that had allowed vermin to get into the attics and were threatening structures) are being removed.

We are also taking steps to recover from some recent setbacks, of which landscaping has been the most significant. The very dry winter and irrigation problems have plagued us, and there has been rising dissatisfaction with the way our landscaper, Luke’s Landscaping, has performed. This has led us to search for a replacement firm (see also the update from the Landscape Liaison, p. 3). The Landscape Committee has been busy over the past month in reviewing the work of several well-established landscape maintenance companies. We hope to have made a decision before June 1.

We are also working with our new CAM, Nick Russo, and Administrative Assistant, Cait Condon, to improve communication of news to the membership, better monitor our vendors, document items needing attention, and then get them done.

As we set about addressing outstanding and new issues, we welcome helpful input from the membership and hope more people will come forward to serve on the committees. I believe strongly in good communication with the membership, and have re-instituted the summary report of POA Board meetings to keep you up to date on issues before us. I look forward to the challenges ahead to bring BTP back to being the top-notch community it has been and can be. □



Don Boreman

A REPORT FROM THE LANDSCAPE LIAISON

By Suzanne Ferguson

Residents will not have failed to notice that we have had ongoing problems with our irrigation system over the past year. We bought and installed several new controllers in 2016, but the problems persisted, coming to a head in the drought-like conditions we have experienced this winter and spring. In April, we had a diver come from Hoover Pumping systems to clear the water intakes from our lakes, which are as low as I have ever seen them. After that, the motor burned out on Pump 5. That was replaced by Hoover in mid-April, soon followed by Pump 2. The POA Board is currently considering a maintenance contract with Hoover, to try to prevent such occurrences. The irrigation specialists from Luke's Landscaping are continuing to work on the system, and a higher-level expert has been called in.

Because of the damage caused by dryness, it has not been possible to apply weed killer or fertilizer systematically, although there have been pesticide applications. Nor have we installed planned new plantings or summer flowers. We are hopeful that the irrigation will soon be working properly and our property will begin to green up. Some plantings will have to be replaced.

In light of difficulties in communicating with Luke's, at the same time as their service has declined, the Landscape Committee began in early April to meet with and seek bids from other landscape maintenance companies. The review process includes visits to properties they serve and interviews with the CAMs and Board members of those properties.

The Landscape Committee voted at its meeting of April 14 to request that Luke's remove all the remaining dead and dying shrubbery in the common areas, including around the units. The plan is to replace plants that have been removed—either earlier or in this new phase—over the summer when the rains will help them become established. Some new sod was put down in various locations in April, and it is being monitored and watered by Luke's Landscaping.

Responding to the requests by numerous members at the Annual Meeting in March, the Committee has recommended that the Board pass a policy for enforcement of the landscaping rules in our By-Laws (Section 4), which do not permit "free-lance" landscaping and lawn decorations. Because the Association has turned a blind eye in the past, enforcement includes grandfathering all existing variants and decorations for the tenure of the property owner. The proposal provides that, at the time of sale or transfer, the area must be restored by the buyer according to an agreement with the ARC (Architectural Review Committee), using only plants from the recently revised Approved Plant List on the Landscape page of the BTP Community Website. The enforcement proposal will be discussed and voted on in a meeting that will have 14-days' written notice, in order to provide members with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with it. Photos of the approved plants are in an album in the CAM office, to help people select appropriate and appealing plants for their common areas.

Finally, the Committee would like to invite residents with knowledge of Florida plants or a willingness to learn, to join the Committee. This is a working committee, in which each member has an area of responsibility. Recently, it has been meeting every 2 weeks, playing "catch up" with our various landscape problems. However, we hope to be able to move to monthly meetings soon. If you are a "snowbird" but would like to participate, we have a place for you. Please get in touch with me, Suzanne Ferguson (scf@case.edu) or with one of the other committee members—Al Avitabile, Paula Castallo, Paul Niss-- to discuss your interest. □



Richard Roux

WEBMASTER NEEDED: START DATE AUGUST 1, 2017

By Suzanne Ferguson and Richard Roux

Bell Tower Park's Community volunteer Webmaster, Richard Roux, who originated the position and built our current website, has announced his intention to retire as of August 1 of this year after six years on the job. He has written the following job description for the individual or individuals sought to replace him, as we anticipate that both a lead webmaster and an assistant may be desirable to make the workload acceptable to volunteers:

The Bell Tower Park "Webmaster" is more accurately described as a "Website author/editor," because the website is hosted on a supported, commercial server. The Webmaster does not have to do any programming. A person familiar with our current Website and reasonably adept at using Microsoft Word should be able to handle the technical requirements without difficulty.

We are seeking someone who can be responsible for the daily maintenance of the site: posting, substituting new material, removing outdated material, and generating literate, readable content when required.

The position typically gets involved in:

- *producing new content in an interesting, appealing manner, while using current American Standard English*
- *sourcing images, artwork, and photographs and mounting them on the site*
- *liaising with residents, our CAM, and the 4 Association Boards for information*
- *maintaining the site and ensuring the information is current and accurate*
- *dealing with inquiries emailed from users and overseeing the various message boards and photograph albums.*

The Website routinely requires year-round daily attention and the use of the Webmaster's own, capable PC. Flexible work hours may be required to meet deadlines, which could include weekends and evenings. Hosted on a commercial server, the website is supported by an excellent software program. The software can be learned from on-line tutorials and by on-the-job training. The position receives guidance from the BTP POA Board's Communications Liaison. Willingness to serve on the POA Board for access to information is desirable, but not required.

In general, a Web author/editor should:

- *have excellent communication skills, both written and oral*
- *be able to undertake research using a variety of sources*
- *be creative, able to alter their style of writing to reflect their audience*
- *be able to multitask and prioritize work schedules*
- *be computer literate and possess reasonably good keyboard skills*
- *be willing to get involved with extensive coordination to insure finished work is embraced as timely, accurate and suitable for general audiences*
- *be factual and a-political; this is not a position for expression of personal opinion*
- *be capable of receiving critical review with calm; a sense of humor is highly desirable.*

Richard writes, "For someone with the skills, Community Webmaster can be a gratifying job: you get to see the benefit of your work to the community on a daily basis, and have the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing in important ways to the life of the community." The Communications Committee will be accepting expressions of interest starting now. Richard will be available for questions and training. We do consider the possibility that it is a two-person job: husband and wife, perhaps, or just two people who can work together on a project of this kind. Please let us hear from you if you think this might be a job for you. For the Communications Committee, Suzanne Ferguson (scf@case.edu) or Richard Roux (richard.roux@ymail.com). □

BTP TENNIS PLAYERS COMPETE IN PALM SPRINGS

By Suzanne Ferguson

If you are out and about near our tennis courts in the morning, you've probably seen them hitting beautiful forehand and backhand ground strokes, or serving powerfully—well beyond what most other users of our courts can manage: either together, with their occasional coach, Armour Person, our court maintenance technician, or practicing with friends. They are Belinda and Emile Dufrene, owners on West Hyde Park Court since 2004. "We checked out the courts before we looked at the unit," Belinda says.

Veterans of mixed doubles tournament play on clay surfaces here in Florida, Belinda and Emile competed this winter in their first USTA couples' mixed doubles tournament on a *grass* surface (think Wimbledon), at Mission Hills Tennis Club in Palm Springs, CA in the senior "combo" division 120 (their ages add up to at least 120 years). Although they won only their first round, they were excited to play on grass. "We got onto the grass court for the first time the day before our first match," Emile recounts. Although they were defeated in the second round, it was by the couple seeded fourth in the tournament, who went on to win the entire division. "So we felt pretty good about it."

Belinda started playing tennis at the advanced age of 25, meeting Emile, who had started playing at 30 a few years earlier, on the courts. They have been married 34 years and have a blended family of six sons and daughters-in-law and 12 grandchildren. Once playing, Belinda moved quickly into organizing tennis teaching and youth tournaments in her hometown of Owensboro, KY, where she taught for fifteen years, including two years of coaching at Brescia College in Owensboro, which has an NAIA Division 1 team.

Emile's profession is river boat captain! For 30 days at a time (followed by 30 days off), he drives a "Tow Boat," which doesn't pull but *pushes* enormous barges up and down the Mississippi. His boat is 200 ft. long and 50 ft. wide. At 8,000 horsepower, the average tow is 35 barges and each barge holds approximately 1700 tons, with cargoes of (usually) grain coming down-river and imported goods going back up, between New Orleans and St. Louis, although he has occasionally gone all the way to St. Paul. A master of his trade, he was recently interviewed for a book on river captains for the Smithsonian Museum that will be out next year. Hailing from Lafitte, LA, Emile is the son of the Emile Dufrene who invented the "Lafitte Skiff," which is famous as a recreational and commercial fishing boat for the bayous and bays of the Delta region.

The couple is delighted to have found Bell Tower Park after trying some other places in Florida. "We wanted to live in a place that was like a vacation, where we could play tennis year-round," Belinda says.

In Ft. Myers "we found a church we liked and nice people," but probably most important, well-maintained clay courts, an amenity that was at the top of their list. "Older people just can't play on hard courts: they're too hard on the joints. The USTA has designated clay courts for its programs." (From its website: "The United States Tennis Association [USTA] is the national governing body for the sport of tennis and the recognized leader in promoting and developing the sport's growth on every level in the U.S.") They sponsor community tennis at all levels, from children to over 90 years old, beginners to turning pro, promote "diversity and inclusion," teach officiating, and sponsor player development. The prevalence of clay courts and the climate make south Florida "a big draw for retirees who play or want to play tennis," Belinda says. "Bell Tower Park's developers were right on the money in giving us the clay hydrocourts (they are watered twice a day to keep the surface playable) as an amenity. They will go on being attractive to new residents."

Yes, you can take up tennis at or after retirement (Au. note: as I did.). Even if you don't get as good as Belinda and Emile, you can enjoy the game with friends. Want to get better? Our Webmaster, Richard Roux, gives free tennis lessons and classes during the season, for anyone who wants to give it a try.

So, what's it like to play on grass? "It's softer. You can't bounce your ball before serving, as we're accustomed to." But Belinda and Emile enjoyed their experience and meeting new people, so they plan to try again next year. □



JOYCE LINDABURY

Emile and Belinda

BTP SUMMER GOLF LEAGUE TO BEGIN

By Jim Stewart

On May 4th, the Bell Tower Park Summer Golf League will begin. We will again be playing at The Hideaway Golf Club, rated as one of the best golf courses in southwest Florida. We play on Thursday mornings starting around 8 a.m. The rate will be \$39 per round. The Hideaway also has a summer membership available for \$490 which gives you unlimited golf, although you have to pay a \$15 daily cart fee. All golfers are welcome regardless of ability. We just play for fun. You could play every Thursday or just once in a while. Anyone interested should e-mail me, Jim Stewart, at iuking@aol.com, and I will put you on the mailing list.

3RD ANNUAL BTP FASHION SHOW AND TEA DAZZLES A FULL HOUSE

By Jane Kraus

Move over, "Project Runway," as the annual Bell Tower Park Tea and Fashion Show is now the in-style event of the season. The BTP Activities Committee partnered with Bell Tower Shoppes' branch of Chico's to present the summer fashion lineup for Southwest Florida. Chico's Assistant Manager Debbie Jurkowski and Sales/Support representative Taylor Dorsey provided an array of outfits modeled by BTP's very own models (in alphabetical order): Kathy Davenport, Joyce Ferrari, Bea Horner, Jo Johnson, Mary Lekan, Beverly Myers, Wanda Niss, and Shelia Veschusio. As they say in the fashion industry: "The models wore the outfit, the outfit didn't wear them." The vivid colors and tasteful styles of the Chico's exclusive clothing line impressed the audience enough to motivate many of them to head to the Shoppe that very evening to purchase the Runway!

A capacity crowd of sixty-five ladies enjoyed a luncheon of tea sandwiches and delicate desserts purchased from Publix Supermarket. A variety of teas were served in elegant china cups and teapots on loan from community members. Bonefish Grill generously donated gift cards to be awarded for the door prize and the prize for the "Best Bonnet" worn to the show. Bently Circle resident Barb Dalen won the door prize and Jane Kraus captured the Bonnet vote for the best Ladies Tea rendition of comedian Minnie Pearl's famous price-tagged chapeau. See Joyce Lindabury's spiffy collage on the next page.

The Activities Committee and additional volunteers deserve a large round of applause for the hard work and dedication that they give to all of the projects that make BTP a lovely place to live. □

chico's

A little interesting local history of the Chico's brand:

Chico's FAS is a retail women's clothing chain founded by Marvin and Helene Gralnick in 1983 on Sanibel Island and is headquartered in Ft. Myers. Chico's FAS operates as three brands: its namesake Chico's, White House | Black Market and Soma. The first franchise store opened in Edina, Minnesota in 1987. In 2001, Chico's debuted on the New York Stock Exchange; and as of November, 2014, Chico's had 1,557 store locations in 48 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Canada. Chico's FAS participates in organizations helping women's and children's health, well-being, and education through their work with Living Beyond Breast Cancer (LBBC) and Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN Hospitals). (See also: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chico's>)



JOYCE LINDABURY

Tea/Fashion Show. Clockwise from the top: Hat Contest; Tea Table; Ronnie Vaccarino congratulates Barb Dalen, Door Prize Winner; Vintage Tea Pots; Jane Kraus, a.k.a. Minnie Pearl, Best Hat; the Models.

BELL TOWER PARK SECOND ANNUAL PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

By Joyce Berrian

It was a windy morning for a Pickleball tournament on Saturday, March 15; however, the sixteen players were not deterred, even when the net blew over a few times. Players were split between two teams, and after each game the players rotated partners.

Cheered on by their fans, Frank Kersanty and Norm Smith were the winners from pool A. Nancy Sanders and Bill Johnson were the pool B winners. Next, pools A and B played each other. The higher scorer from each team then competed for first place. Norm Smith won the coveted gold Pickleball medal for first place. Second place silver Pickleball medals were awarded to Nancy and Frank, who tied for the position. The third prize, a jar of pickles, was presented to Dick Budynas, who stepped in for injured Bill Johnson.

A poolside lunch ended the official season of Bell Tower Park Pickleball. □



PHOTOS NANCY SANDERS; COLLAGE JOYCE LINDABURY

Pickleball Tournament. From top left, Norm Smith holds the order of play; the four winners—Dick Budynas, Frank Kersanty, Norm Smith, and Nancy Sanders; transport to the tourney; all the BTP Pickleballers

QUILTS FOR DISASTER RELIEF

By Jane Kraus

Looking for something you can do to ameliorate the terrible refugee crisis? If you would like to clear out your linen closet and make a difference for good at the same time, then I have an opportunity for you. With your *clean, gently used* bed sheets and blankets (not quilts) a group of quilters from Peace Lutheran Church on McGregor Blvd. will make pretty quilts that are sent to help in emergency disaster relief sites worldwide. Their group is a participant with the International Red Cross/Red Crescent, which distributes aid without regard to “a particular political or religious viewpoint.”

The recipients use their quilts to shield against the cold and rain and for warm bedding. But their versatility also makes quilts useful as simple tents, floor coverings, carryalls or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother’s back.

Contact “Jersey Jane” Kraus by leaving a message at 551-427-1886 or jekraus1@gmail.com to arrange for a pick-up. Thanks for contributing to this humanitarian cause. □

GOLISANO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL: THE BELL TOWER PARK CONNECTION

By Joyce Lindabury

On April 1, 2017, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at nearby Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, followed by an Open House. This marked the end of construction on the seven-story children's health center, which took more than six years and \$200 million to complete. The hospital will open on May 10 with 128 beds and room to expand to 160. All rooms are private with pull-out beds so parents can stay with their child. The design of the hospital was meant to be bright and cheerful for children and parents as well. Colorful sculptures can be found throughout the facility.

The opening of this new hospital is especially significant for us as a community. As many BTP residents will remember, in the fall of 2013 BTP took part in its first ever community fundraising effort, "A Seahorse Dream," co-chaired by Jane and Tom Kearns for our community and south Lee County area co-chairs Paula and Dave Eberhardt. As part of the fundraising, over 50 five-foot high seahorses were decorated by local artists and auctioned at a Grand Gala at the downtown Convention Center in March 2014. A wine tasting evening at BTP and a cruise to Tarpon Lodge also helped fund the project. Our seahorse, aptly named "MS BELLE," was decorated by Bell Tower Park resident and artist Rick Sanford. A 15" model of the five-foot statue "MS BELLE" is on display in our Clubhouse as a remembrance of our first ever community fundraising event. Now we can see the fruits of our labors in the newly-constructed Golisano Children's Hospital as well. *(Ed. note: If you've never seen one of the 5' seahorses, there is one at Annie's Collision over on Bruner Dr.; Annie's contributed the clear-coating of all the original seahorses. Its photo is on our back page.)* □



JOYCE LINDABURY

Collage of Golisano Children's Hospital

FLOORED BY THE RESULTS

By Richard Roux

I never in my wildest dreams thought I'd be writing a household cleaning column like Heloise. I guess it is because of my chemistry background and the old DuPont slogan "Better Living Through Chemistry."

Another resident, participating in our BTP tennis class, gave me a tip about the product I'll be discussing. It is called "Clean by Peroxy." It is a general purpose cleaner containing peroxide. My tipster used it on her floor tile and grout and reported obtaining excellent results.

That report piqued my interest. We have light tile and very light grout in our unit. Over the years, standard mopping with various floor cleaners had darkened the grout lines. I had contemplated bringing in a floor restoration firm.

While my wife was away on a trip, I put a fairly concentrated strength amount of the Peroxy cleaner into just the grout lines (with an old turkey baster). After letting the solution sit for 10 minutes, so the chemical could work, I applied a little elbow grease to the grout with a scrub brush and then blotted away the solution with clean paper towels. The grout dried surprisingly light. My wife even noticed (without prompting) the change when she came home! Now, using the same product for standard mopping, the grout continues to lighten and the tile is sparkling clean. So, I'm sold on the product.

The product is sold in one-gallon containers by a local cleaning distributor, Supply Works, located at the intersection of Metro Parkway and Crystal Drive. An account is required, so I set up an account for Bell Tower Park, where residents could go in and pick up and pay with their own credit card. The cost is \$20/gallon, which should last quite a long time.

Anyway, if you think this is worth a try at your unit, I'll believe you'll be impressed. Let me know how it works for you at: richard.roux@gmail.com. □

REFURBISHED PLAYGROUND REOPENS



JOYCE LINDABURY

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY 2017

By Jane Kraus

D.J. Jim Anderson of Tunes in Paradise helped 38 people celebrate St. Valentine's Day on February 11 with a karaoke party at the Clubhouse hosted by the Activities Committee. The title of "King of Karaoke" was unanimously voted to Paul Niss of Chelsey Lane. Paul paid his respects to Elvis, singing several his best hits. Then, joined by Diana Coomer, he stole the show with a fabulous rendition of 'Ride Sally Ride.' The Girl groups of BTP ruled too, as Debbie and the Debettes sang, 'Summer Nights,' and the BTP "Supremes" did a rendition of 'Stop in the Name of Love.' Mary and the Marvellettes led us all in the anthem, 'I Will Survive.'

The Activities Committee worked diligently organizing the music, sub-sandwiches and dessert for all of the evening's rockers. Valentines' love goes to the Committee and all its helpers. □



KIM WALERIUS

Karaoke Champs Diana Coomer and Paul Niss with D.J. Jim Anderson and Backup Singers

SOMETHING NEW AT BTP: BRING-YOUR-OWN HAPPY HOUR

By Jane Kraus

On Friday, March 24, the Activities Committee offered our residents a poolside Happy Hour. About 40 people showed up to enjoy the BYOB event, with delicious hors d'oeuvres provided by the attendees. More importantly, everyone enjoyed a casual, comfortable evening talking with friends and making new acquaintances. The event was so stress-free and relaxing that the Committee is planning a second Happy Hour May 12. Keep your eyes open for Webmaster emails and street signboards announcing the particulars for this terrific new community activity. □

THREE NEW BUSINESSES OPEN NEARBY

By Jim Stewart

After months of construction, three new stores have opened recently in the shopping center directly across U.S. 41 from Barnes and Noble: a tanning salon, an electronics repair shop, and a new dry cleaner.

As the name implies, Zoom Tan offers both UV tanning and Spray tanning services. All of the tanning units are stand-up booths within their own private, lockable rooms for safety and comfort. The tanning equipment provides a full coverage tan without streaks and white spots that lay-down tanning beds give you. There are several UV booths and 2 spray machines for normal tans and 1 for extra dark tans. Spray treatments last 45 seconds with 2 1/2 minutes of drying time. Tans last from 5-10 days. Monthly dues start at \$9.99 for UV treatments and \$19.99 for spray treatments. There are several payment options available at zoomtan.com.

To the south you will find UBreakIFix, a franchise business that repairs iPhones, Google devices, and other smartphones, tablets, computers and game consoles. In fact, if it has an electric cord, they will look at it, said Mandie Rainwater, who works there with her husband, Ben, a certified cell device technician. Inside this business, you will also find Tech Training Center. TTC advertises itself as the solution for individual technology training needs. TTC "seeks to help the older or unfamiliar technology user" to better understand their devices. Mandie, formerly a school teacher, conducts the classes. Clients will operate their devices alongside a technology trainer to explore basic functions through advanced features. TTC will conduct both small group and private lessons.

On the north corner of the new suite, Tide Dry Cleaners is located. They are a franchise of Tide, as their logo suggests. Their hours are M-F 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. If you get your order in before 9 a.m., your clothes will be ready that same day. If after 9, they will be ready the next day. They have car-side valet, so you do not have to leave your car. They also have a wash and fold service (what used to be called a bachelor bundle). For this, the price of a shirt is \$2.50, a dress \$12.95 and a comforter \$30.00, with free minor repairs as needed. For those with odd hours, they have a service where they give you a bag with your name on it so you can drop off your dirty laundry 24-7. When it is done, they will email and phone you that your order is ready and you can pick it up 24-7 via their automated system. Note: They have been sending us a lot of coupons through the mail and our Webmaster posted one on the BTP Community Website. □

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY Saturday May 6 from 6-8 p.m. in the Clubhouse. Teams will compete in a trivia contest to see whose "horse" will be the first to cross the finish line. This is a BYOB event with light snacks provided.

BYO HAPPY HOUR Friday May 12 from 5 p.m.-dusk at the Pool Deck. Bring an appetizer to share and bring your own beverage *in plastic containers*.

COFFEE HOURS Sunday May 22 and June 19, Clubhouse 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Note from the Committee: If anyone has any suggestions for new activities, drop them at the CAM office for pickup. The Committee would welcome new members with fresh ideas and a willingness to work on events with other fun people. Contact Ronnie Vaccarino at 239-989-7403, or just show up at one of our meetings, the first Tuesday evening of each month.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!



DID YOU WANT TO KNOW?

By Jim Stewart

Q. Why do birds sit on power lines?

A. We might have observed one time or another that birds sit on the electricity wires at intersections. They might be using these power lines for taking rest for a few moments, as they are readily available and easy to approach. Like the trees and rooftops on which we see them congregate, the lines are places to take a break in their flight conveniently and without harm, far from ground predators.

Another factor could be warmth. Due to resistance, the lines will become warm when the electricity continuously flows through them. So, it might be comfortable for the birds to sit on the warm wires. People sometimes worry that when the birds sit on the high voltage power lines, they might get electrocuted. Electricity passes into a circuit only when there is a potential difference that exists between the ends of the circuit. If a bird sits on the power line, it does not complete a circuit, as the bird does not come in contact with another wire or ground. A potential difference would be created if the bird touched another wire simultaneously, which might kill the bird as the current would pass into it due to the potential difference.

These birds (mainly different kinds of blackbirds, for some reason) mostly sit on the power lines during the dawn and dusk. This might be because they are preparing for food search and migratory flight in the morning or just roosting for the night in a safe place.

Q. Everywhere you go in Ft. Myers, it appears new construction is going on. What about those close to BTP?

A. At 14801 Ben C. Pratt Parkway, just a few blocks east of Walmart, a Murphy Express has started construction. The company has two brands, Murphy USA and Murphy Express. Murphy USA gas stations are typically located near a Walmart store, and Murphy Express stations (which we are getting) are standalone gas stations. Murphy USA tend to be smaller, kiosk-format stores, while Murphy Express tend to be larger, traditional convenience store formats. There are more than 1,200 stores in 23 states throughout the country -- and they are building more all the time.

New options in single-family homes are coming close to us also. The new gated neighborhood of Venetian Pointe is under way, bringing over 100 new homes to the area. Located off Gladiolus on the southeast corner of Summerlin, the 50-acre development is under construction by the family-owned Florida firm of Zuckerman Homes. The residences of Venetian Pointe will be priced starting in the \$200,000s with between 1,650 to 3,000 square feet of living space. With one and two-story floor plans to choose from, all of the homeowners will enjoy the community swimming pool and clubhouse, as well as their own private green space, and views of lakes or preserves. Each home is set to offer a large backyard plus a patio, along with a two-car garage. As well, the floor plans are expected to offer a bump-out from the garage, providing either usable storage space or even the option of a studio. Meanwhile, the neighborhood advertises winding streets and sidewalks, giving residents plenty of space to take in the surroundings, whether for a morning jog or a sunset stroll.

Q. Now that baseball season is here, do you know why the spot where a baseball pitcher warms up is called a "bull pen"?

A. Although there is a ball game called "bull pen," there is every indication that the use of this term as a synonym for the spot where a relief baseball pitcher "warms up" did not come from that. Instead, the term comes from the fact that in newspaper reporting a pitcher whose delivery is hit hard and often is said to have been "slaughtered". This led to comparing a pitcher with bulls and the game with a bullfight. When one pitcher was hit "out of the box" and another sent in, the reporters wrote, "another bull was led to the slaughter." At a bullfight there is a "bull pen" close to the arena where the bulls are kept, waiting their turn. Thus, the place where the relief pitcher warms up, waiting to be called, is named the "bull pen." □

EDITOR'S NOTE



BELL TOWER NOTES

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I have a new “hat” to wear for this issue, as I became a member of the POA Board about a month ago, and the outlook over Bell Tower Park has become different for me. Things I used to see as “stories” have become items of concern: responsibilities. And I see more than before how essential it is to have participation from community members to maintain the health of the Association. Five Board members and a CAM are just not enough “eyes” or “hands” to keep track of the many facets of community life. In trying to get a handle on our many problems with the landscape, I have received communications from many members—all over the Park—who see things in their neighborhood that we need to address. While current members of the committee have stepped up to monitor the turf and irrigation, the Landscape Committee needs some people to “take ownership” of particular areas, such as shrub replacement or weed control—bringing their research and advice to the committee.

We need to begin grooming successors for long-time board members—or just replacements for when vacancies occur; if you think you might be interested, speak to a current Board member. As we read elsewhere in this issue, the Activities Committee also would welcome new members to replace those who have left and some who are feeling a tad “burned out,” and, perhaps most urgently, we are going to need a new Webmaster by the first of August.

The Communications Committee is always looking for new reporters for the Newsletter, and I would dearly welcome an assistant editor who might take over as editor in the future. We know that many of you have skills that you could use to better the community and probably the time to help. Even “snowbirds” can often contribute by e-mail with their advice and research. Please do get in touch with me (scf@case.edu) or our Webmaster (Richard.roux@ymail.com).

Suzanne Ferguson, Editor

REMEMBER: WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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Be sure to look for Joyce Lindabury's photos from the Fashion Show under Photo Albums on our Website!



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