



Bell Tower Newsletter

RECENT EVENTS AT BELL TOWER

By Peg Moe

Once again the Social Committee has been busy organizing events within Bell Tower for our enjoyment.

In March there was "The Grill and Chill" which was a huge hit with over 80 residents. This is an event with no cost to the attendees-just bring a side dish and a fun attitude! Burgers and brats/hotdogs were grilled fresh to accompany the massive potluck sides. The weather was perfect and provided a perfect backdrop for food and friends. Our on deck grilling crew, Bill Johnson, Vince Vaccarino and Norm Smith perfected their grilling skills and kept the platters full.

In April there was the Fashion Show and Tea. Residents modeled fashions from Chico's, a singing group called "The Tamiami Sound" performed, and delicious tea sandwiches and desserts were served to over 40 attendees. Jane Krause (Jersey Jane) took first prize for her clever Tea Cup and Saucer hat creation. This is just a great way to connect and enjoy each other's company.

In May the Kentucky Derby Party group watched the Kentucky Derby on live TV in the Clubhouse. There were plenty of snacks at the tables as we participated in a Derby Trivia game led by Nancy Sanders. A friendly but lively game of trivia ensued "with a twist" because it wasn't necessarily the right answer but rather the most popular answer that earned points. Many women in attendance wore hats to keep the Derby mood going. Some very creative creations were displayed but probably the most original was modeled by Al and Ann Smith who came as "Horse Trainers".

PICTURES ON PAGE 3

Upcoming Events

On page 6 you will find things to do in SWFL

You can find neighborhood events posted on signs by the gates or check your emails

Visit the Bell Tower HOA site for daily activities!

Canine Corner

By Peg Moe

Many of us who live in Bell Tower are dog owners. For those of us who have dogs, we are always meeting other dog owners walking their dogs around the community. It is interesting that within a short period of time, dogs recognize other "walked" dogs and the territorial behavior subsides. Many of these dogs have a growing circle of dogs they enjoy seeing on a routine basis and their tails begin to wag, leashes are pulled, and a general culture emerges of friends.

One of the dogs many of us know is "Beasley". He is our first featured dog. His pets are Al and Vicky. Beasley is a Labradoodle and any one who knows him, pictures him picking up treasures on his daily walks. You can't help but smile at palm fronds extending at a great distance out each side of his mouth. In this picture he is cleaning up our yards by picking up the "Just Sprayed" warning signs from the yard service. What a helper!



So, with so many of us that own dogs, where can we go where our pets can accompany us? That is what Canine Corner will explore in this and future articles.

Several years ago, Jim Stewart, wrote an article, which appeared in an earlier edition of our Bell Tower Notes. I'd like to share with you parts of his article.

If you are a dog owner in BTP, you know that it is required your pet be on a leash whenever it is outside your home and that all pet waste must be cleaned up. But, other than walking our dogs in the community, where can we take them to get more exercise?

Only 4.5 miles southwest of BTP you will find Woof-A-Hatchee Dog Park. It is located at 16760 Bass Rd, Fort Myers FL 33908. The dog park has over an acre of land fenced in, with a small separate area for small/shy dogs. There is water for people and dogs, and benches to sit on and watch the activities. Trees have been planted and eventually will provide shade for spectators. There are also rest rooms nearby and even a nice playground for young children. Best thing? It is free and so is the parking! So, when you want a new way to give pup some exercise and socialization, take them to the park.

Another unique park is located on Lovers' Key, south of Fort Myers Beach and Lovers' Key State Park. This is a terrific off-leash beach area. This "Dog Beach" is truly special. Here the dogs and their owners wade and swim, toss or fetch a Frisbee or ball and enjoy their freedom. Waste facilities are provided for the dogs and there are restrooms for people too. There is even a place to rinse your dog clean once you are ready to head home. Bring a towel for you and pup so you can keep your car dry. One thing to remember, is that this park is really only fun at low tide, so check your tide charts before setting out or there may be no beach to enjoy. Next time you wonder what to do with your special pup, consider one or both of these parks. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

BTP Golf League

On May 3rd, the Bell Tower golf league began and we will play every Thursday until the end of October. We play at The Hideaway, one of the finest courses in Fort Myers. As a matter of fact, in 2014 The Hideaway was named as the top course in the State of Florida by www.GolfNow.com.

We play to just have fun. The cost of a round is \$36 (or \$44 that includes lunch). There is a summer membership available. You can play every week or just as your schedule allows. To get on the email list, send **Jim Stewart** your email address. Each week, he will ask all who plans to play and then he arranges groups so that everyone gets to play with all players. Jim's email is iuking@aol.com

Men and women are welcome to join us. We hope we can add some new golfers to our group this summer.

Lake Park Has a Community Garden

By Jim Stewart

The Community Garden of Lakes Park is an opportunity for citizens to rent garden beds to cultivate produce or flowering species. This progressive concept is an effort to revive the practice of growing produce and planting close to home. Lee County residents can rent one of the 4' X 8' raised beds for \$60 per year. They also offer classes taught by extension personnel and local growers each month. Your fee includes a parking sticker for free parking and the use of all of the equipment you might need to grow your garden.

The Community Garden is a more efficient method of sharing excess produce, which is donated to a local food bank. There are 5 or 6 Bell Tower Park gardeners that enjoy their gardens. If you would like to rent a bed--sometimes there is a waiting list -- call 239-533-757



Jane Krause Fashion Show Winner



Al and Ann Smith as Derby Horse Trainers



Chilin and Grilling at the Club House

Did you want to know?

By Jim Stewart

Q. What is going on at Marlin Plaza?

A. Well, for starters Marlins Brewhouse and Chronic Tacos have already opened. Marlins Brewhouse will be a "hyper local" beer bar highlighting offerings from Southwest Florida's craft breweries, as well as craft producers from snowbird havens - Michigan, New England, Ohio- up north. In addition to beer, Marlins will serve a limited menu (about 15 items) of pub fare, big pretzels, bacon in a pint glass, things like that. Across the shared beer garden is Chronic Tacos. Headquartered in Southern California, Chronic is a fast-casual Mexican restaurant. Menu items include tacos, burritos, quesadillas and bowls. Fillings include carnitas, al pastor, chicken, steak, and fish or shrimp that can be sautéed or beer battered and fried, plus vegetarian options. Hours are 9am to 10pm.

Still to open is the American Grilled Cheese Kitchen. They will also serve breakfast items and also several different sandwiches, soups, salads and sides. I could not find out the opening date but assume it will be in the very near future.

Q. What is going to move into the old Saks Fifth Avenue building in Bell Tower shopping center?

A. Dave & Buster's will begin construction in June with a grand opening anticipated for early 2019. Dave & Buster's will offer guest hundreds of the latest arcade games, a chef-crafted menu, innovative cocktails and a state-of-the-art D&B Sports Bar filled with dozens of massive HDTV screens.

Dave & Buster's operates 112 restaurant/entertainment complexes throughout North America, including six locations in Florida: Brandon, Hollywood, Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando and Panama City Beach.

I would like to give a shout-out to a couple of local businesses. First, thanks to Galeana Automotive for making their new parking lot a thing of beauty. I know a lot of folks were worried that a parking lot would be an ugly way to enter BTP from Andrea Lane. Turns out, Galeana made it a beautiful landscaped welcoming view when entering our side entrance.

I took an expensive watch into Bradley's Fine Jewelers next to Bonefish Grill to replace a battery. When I picked it up after a few days it was not running on time. I took it back to Bradley's and they discovered that water had entered my watch. It might have been something I did, like pull out the stem to set a date or maybe they didn't waterproof the watch correctly. In any case, they said that if there was any chance they were to blame they could not charge me a penny for the repair. I tried to pay at least for parts but they would have no part in that. Really nice people and I plan to make my next jewelry purchase at their store.

Continued Page 5

Q. Any idea what I can do for an inexpensive way to entertain my family?

A. Sure, attend a Miracle baseball game. The Fort Myers Miracle is the Class A Advanced Minor League Baseball affiliate of the Minnesota Twins Major League baseball club. Home games are played at the Century Link Sports Complex in Hammond Stadium, which has a capacity of 7,500, and opened in 1991. Ticket prices start at \$7.50 and cost a little more on fireworks nights. You can get the schedule and ticket information on their website. Just search for Miracle baseball team Fort Myers.

Recipe of the Quarter

By Diane Lipp

Grilled Asparagus

One package of Asparagus (Publix usually has a sale)

Fresh Garlic Chopped Finely

Olive Oil for Grilling or Sautéing

Package of Finely Shredded Italian Cheeses

Salt and Pepper to Taste

Optional Red Pepper Flakes

Take the asparagus and cut bottom tips about an inch. Wash the remaining, dry and set on tin foil or grill mat. Drizzle Olive oil and distribute garlic over the stalks. Mix with hands to evenly coat. Salt and Pepper to taste and you can also add the pepper flakes for a little spice. You can either do these in the oven or right on the grill. Cook until desired softness. Sprinkle the shredded cheese evenly over top and either broil or shut grill cover until melted. This dish is great for the Keto diet or just a healthy summer side. ENJOY!



Events Around SWFL

By Diane Lipp

Summer is approaching and yes it will be rainy season once more. Let's hope we can skip another Irma! During season there are many activities around SWF.

I am now on a mission to find local activities, besides the beach and obvious tourist attractions.

I have recently discovered, like many other areas, we have a restaurant week or should I say weeks! It runs from May 31st until June 13th. One dollar of every prix fixed menu selection, will go to FCGU culinary school. This event also brings business to local establishments, as they may be slow this time of year and is a way of introduction. There are 71 restaurants participating from Cape Coral to Naples along with three on Marco Island. If you're in the mood to save some money maybe take a road trip, check out the link below for the list as well as the menus!

[SWFL Restaurant Weeks](#)

Another great link is for Fort Myers and the Sanibel area:

[Fort Myer Events](#)

The Edison also has a nice outdoor restaurant and a nice public golf course and dogs are allowed on their patio area. Adding to Peggy's canine corner, you can download the AP Bring Fido and it will give you various venues you can bring your fur baby!

Letter from the Editor

Wishing all who left for the summer a safe trip back and all those who are leaving a safe trip up north.

We will be publishing this newsletter every quarter. With that in mind, please submit events that will be happening or past events with any anecdotal stories or pictures. If you want to submit an event that is happening before the next publication, you can send it to Caitlin and she can email blast the neighborhood. Another great way to communicate is through Next Door Neighbor. You can sign up with your email to receive local neighborhood activities and items for rent or for sale. Maybe you're just looking for a recommendation? You can find that here as well. The site is:

[Next Door Neighbor sign up](#)

Have a Wonderful Summer and well see you in the fall! The next issue will run in September and then the holiday December issue.

Thanks!

Diane Lipp