



Bell Tower Newsletter

EVENTS AT BELL TOWER By Peg Moe

Social Committee Activities

The Social Committee is instrumental in getting residents together within Bell Tower. There should be something for everyone, no matter what your interests and they are always looking for new ideas to try and events to sponsor. These are just some of the upcoming and past events the committee has put together:

Trivia party
Halloween party
Potlucks
Picnics
Friday happy hours around the pool
Christmas party
Sunday morning coffee
Kentucky Derby party
Tea and Fashion Show

There are many events listed and I'm sure I missed several but they will be posted on the sign as you exit the community and e-mails are sent from the office. Many of the events are free and offer ways for you to meet new resident. Some of the new ideas being tossed around are a Wine and Paint party and a Progressive Dinner on Sanibel. Just call Ronnie Vaccarino at [239-989-7403](tel:239-989-7403) to share ideas on events. Some events go over very well and others have been tried but either there was too little interest or too much cost.

Our next event is the Christmas Party [on December 8th](#). Join us!

Upcoming Events

Christmas party December 8th
Details will be available shortly for ticket sales

Check out the signs at each entryway for special events and visit the Bell Tower HOA site for daily activities!

Changes in our Community by Peggy Moe

So far in 2018 we have welcomed many new residents to Bell Tower. This fact is evident in sales of property within our community. This year there have been 37 Carriage Homes and 23 Courtyard homes sold. The current number of properties for sale is 17 out of 481 total, which is well below the 10% many realtors say is acceptable. With so many places sold, there will be many new faces in our community. If you have a new neighbor or are new to the neighborhood consider coming to the Coffee Meet and Greet every 3rd Sunday, September to May [from 9:30 to 11:30](#). This is a wonderful venue for establishing friendships and contacts within the community. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge to attend.

LANDSCAPE

A Landscape Architect was hired by Bell Tower to design a plan for future landscaping in the community, a plan that gives continuity and beauty. This is a plan, which will take 5 years to complete so patience is asked. We all know how quickly 5 years can pass! There have been 4 test home addresses that have been completed and are ready to be viewed. These homes were selected by the landscape architect in conjunction with Management and the landscape committee, based on a need basis.

They are:

13963 Avon Park Circle

5550 Berkshire Dr. #201

14000 W. Hyde Park Dr. #202 #203

5590 Kensington Loop

Halloween- Bell Tower Style by Peggy Moe

The annual Halloween party was a screaming success. More than 50 people attended the costume party and enjoyed an evening of music, prizes, food, and friendship. Some lucky characters won door prizes of hand painted pumpkins created by Joyce Ferrari of our community and there were also prizes given for best man's costume, best woman's costume and best couple costumes. A Pirate, Miss Piggy and a Scary Prom King and Queen took home prizes respectively. Many of the residents were impossible to identify with their various creations! Sandwiches, potato salad, chips, and apple and pumpkin pie fed the crew and Jennifer Gilmore entertained with song and dance. Fun time!



Ronnie Vaccarino
greet's Barb and John
Dalen.



Carl and Joyce
Ferrari

Upcoming Christmas Party

The annual Christmas party is on the calendar for [December 8th](#). As we get closer to the event, information on ticket sales and prices will be available. An e-mail will be sent out by the office and it will also be posted on the gates as you exit the community. This is a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season. Come and enjoy the beautifully decorated Club House and put on your fancy duds to gather with other residents. There will be a catered dinner and Jennifer Gilmore will provide the entertainment. She does an excellent job of making our party festive with good music and dance. Renew old friendships and make new ones and indulge in an evening of holiday cheer. This event always has a way of starting out the season of joy with friends. Put it on your calendar.

[Holiday Flyer](#)

CANE TOAD or BUFO TOAD

Peggy Moe

Why write an article on toads? They are very poisonous and can cause death in pets (especially dogs). These toads are active in the humid weather here and have been seen by several residents of Bell Tower. I found a smashed one in the street on Bently (although it was probably a juvenile because of its size). Another resident went to put their car in the garage and thought there was a small dog by the tire. It was a large toad. The adults are especially large 6 to 9 inches is the average and the females can be even larger. In addition they can raise up when threatened so they appear even larger. They are especially found in early am or early evening-another really good reason to carry a flashlight and keep your pet on a leash. These toads can be deadly to dogs and symptoms appear in minutes. Dogs show symptoms such as crying, pawing at



their mouth and eyes, profuse drooling, difficulty breathing, seizures and unsteady movement upon coming in contact with these toads. The toads secrete a poisonous milky white fluid from oral cavity, behind the eyes, and glands on their backs. If your pet has come in contact with one of these toads, seek emergency vet services immediately.

These toads were originally from South and Mainland Central America but were introduced to various Caribbean islands and eventually here and in Texas for pest control of

the cane beetle in the production of sugar cane. Now the toads themselves are considered pests. They vary in color-grey, yellowish, red brown or olive brown but are mostly recognizable because of their large size. Beware. Our pets are naturally curious and may investigate this toad. If the toad feels at all threatened, their glands will secrete this quick acting poison and put our beloved pets at serious risk or death.

PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOGS!

By Diane Lipp

Many residents complain that they are seeing more unwanted “gifts” on their walks around Bell Tower neighborhood. For those owners who rent out their property, please let you renters know it is their responsibility to clean up after their pets. If anyone needs bags, I have them available for free! Please contact me and I will give you some! DianeLLipp@gmail.com

DID YOU WANT TO KNOW?

By Jim Stewart

Q. Is there more activity at Marlin Plaza?

A. Dunkin Donuts is now open from 5am to 11pm. They offer donuts of course, but also bagels, breakfast sandwiches, hash browns, muffins, made to order wraps; chicken salad and tuna sandwiches are among other offerings. They also have brownies to along with the coffee, espresso, tea, cappuccino and latte. For those Krispy Crème lovers, they are now opened on 41 across from Buffalo Wings and Rings.

We are still waiting for American Grilled Cheese Kitchen to open. They are hiring. And soon Lena's Nail Spa will open just east of Chronic Tacos. Now, the last piece of the puzzle is about to open. Slurping Dragon will feature noodles, poke and will have a fresh Asian Grill.

Q. Can you hum when you hold your nose closed?

A. No. I knew you wouldn't take my word for it. And while you are at it, it is impossible to lick your elbow.

Q. Is there an easy explanation on why are the Ficus trees were trimmed so low?

A. If left unchecked the bushes were quickly becoming trees. And if they did develop into trees, they would be like most trees in that the trunks would be several feet of bare bark before any foliage would grow, thus not protecting our view of the Andrea businesses.

Q. How clever are you?

A. Very clever, if you can solve this riddle. These 7 words all have something in common. See if you can figure out what it is!

- 1. Banana**
- 2. Dresser**
- 3. Grammar**
- 4. Potato**
- 5. Revive**
- 6. Uneven**
- 7. Assess**

Are you peeking or have you already given up? Give it another try...Look at each word carefully. You'll kick yourself when you discover the answer. No, it is not that they all have at least 2 double letters

Answer: In all the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word.

CLAUDE LYLESS - RESIDENT ARTIST by Jim Stewart

This is a story about a man who delayed his passion for many years. Claude graduated from the University of Missouri in 1973 with a degree in Art. He entered the work force in commercial banking and continued in banking until his retirement in 2016. While working at the bank, Claude would occasionally take classes: pastel here, acrylic there, drawing in a community college evening class, Chinese brush painting, etc.

The past few years has been spent learning new subject matter (Florida landscape), new techniques, experimentation with new materials or re-familiarizing him with material he had not used since art school, then purchasing equipment and materials; and now, taking a class or workshop here-and-there.

Currently, Claude is a member of the Art League of Fort Myers, the Visual Art Center in Punta Gorda, Art Center Bonita (Springs), and Lee County Alliance For The Arts he is a supporter and former Board member for Art Saint Louis.

Here are a few of his works. More can be seen at www.claudelyesartworks.com .

BELL TOWER HEROS by Jim Stewart

It was July 12 and we had 3 groups playing golf that day. Since the Hideaway was closed for maintenance, we were playing at The Lexington Country Club. Two of our groups were assigned to tee off on the 10th hole and the other group was assigned to the first hole.

The first two groups finished and they waited for nearly 30 minutes before the other group came into the lounge for lunch. Turns out when the group on hole #1 got near the green, they spotted a bird in need. It was entangled in fishing line and had a fishing hook in one of its wings. The group captured the bird and phoned the pro shop for assistance. The pro sent out a few employees who took the bird and got it to a nearby veterinarian who did some first aid of made arrangements for the bird to be taken to the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) on Sanibel Island. Following is a report from CROW regarding the bird.

"The Black Skimmer arrived to the clinic on Thursday, July 12. The bird had a green band with write writing marked B15. It was suspected to have a hurt wing caused by a fishing hook and monofilament line. Upon examination, veterinarians noticed the bird had severe swelling and edema of its right wing. The bird was also noted to have a poor body condition. Luckily, the bird did not have any overt fractures noted during its exam. The injured wing was treated with cold and warm compresses along with pain medication and fluid therapy. The bird was started on a re-feeding plan to help its poor body condition. Unfortunately, despite receiving treatment for its injuries, the bird passed away on Saturday night."

Even though the story has a sad ending. We are proud of Bell Tower golfers Fred Anderson, Vince Vaccarino and Fred Lindsay for taking time away from their golfing to try to save this bird. Nice to know they are the kind of neighbors we have here at Bell Tower Park.

School Donations for the Heights Foundation

In June, the residents of Bell Tower were asked to participate in the annual outreach program for children of Harlem Heights. This is a program, which seeks donations, through the generosity of others, to provide desperately needed school supplies to children. The children of Harlem Heights have double the poverty rate within Lee County.

Within 24 hours, the residents of Bell Tower responded to the needs of these children with items such as backpacks, notebooks, markers, flash drives, crayons, paper, and other necessary supplies. These supplies allow the children to move forward, prepared to start their learning experience without lacking the supplies they need.

Thanks to all the residents who responded so quickly to those in need. Your kindness and generosity was witnessed



3rd Annual Christmas Adopt a Family Program

This year the community will be sponsoring two families for the Adopt a Family Program. The Salvation Army for Bell Tower to sponsor selected the following families.

Jane Kearns is your go to person for items requested and needs expressed by the family members. Please call her to get the wishes and needs of the individuals. She has a specific list, which includes names, sizes and sex of each child. She can be reached at 516-524-2427. All gifts will have to be wrapped with the name of the recipient on each tag. Gifts can be delivered to Jane's (she will share her address with you) or there is a box in the clubhouse office for placement of gifts. The deadline for giving is December 10th. Again, Jane is your contact person and can offer guidance based on needs and wants.

Cont.

First Family

This is a family of 5. The Mother of the 4 children had to flee a domestic violence situation in 2011 and moved into the ACT Shelter. By 2012 she had established herself in an apartment and has worked a steady job. Two of the children have special needs due to health or developmental conditions. This family is still struggling.

Second Family

This is a family of 4. April is a single Mother who suffered a brain aneurysm in 2004. She now has short-term memory loss, which makes it impossible for her to hold a job. She gets a small amount of child support and is fighting for disability. In addition, she is also raising her two grandchildren because their parents have split up and neither of them are able to care for them at this time. Her son helps her a great deal with things she needs to do and remember.

Let's see what we can do to help these families. Again, call Jane at 516-524-2427 for guidance. You can donate within in cash or specific gifts. Thanking you in advance for your continued generosity.

Envera Gates

By Diane Lipp

As more traffic enters our community there are more delays at the front gate. In order to ensure a more rapid process there are a few things to know. Envera has an app that you can download for free and see who comes in, and allows you to add guests for quicker entry. Please utilize this feature as it alleviates the need for them to track you down by phone to ok a guest or worker. Keep in Mind, however, when you allow someone entrance, even over the phone, they are allowed to re-enter the whole day. If you want to only allow that person in once, you need to delete them either by the app, on the site, or by letting them know on the initial phone call. If you have any questions, they can answer them for you. Here is the Website to access your account and it also gives you the links to the apps for you mobile device www.myenvera.com

Leopardi's Opens

By Diane Lipp

Well the "castle" is finally occupied! A new restaurant has opened where the Tilted Kilt used to be after two long years of vacancy. Anthony Leopardi and his wife Gina have finally fulfilled a life long dream of having their own place.

The food is extremely good and well prepared from many generations of family recipes. They pour great drinks at the bar and have an extensive wine list. Leopardi's is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. From antipasti to pizza and upscale full dinners, you are sure to find something to enjoy!

<https://www.leopardi.com>

Letter from the Editor

Welcome Back Snow Birds! As you can see there are many exciting things going on in the neighborhood. Trees have been trimmed back and new landscaping plans are being slowly implemented. The Avon Pool is getting a face-lift and Thanksgiving is upon us with Christmas right around the corner! Please remember as traffic increases to drive safely through the neighborhood and when traveling out and about town. There are many exciting activities as well as fund raising events to participate in this season. Be sure to read Cait's emails for updates!

Thanks!

Diane Lipp