



Willow Springs Watch

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From the President

Dennis Gerber

We had another great turnout at this month's board meeting. I want to thank Jane Harris for hosting the coffee and doughnuts social before the meeting.

I am pleased to announce that we have had two volunteers to fill two of the vacant committee chairmen positions: insurance, John Johnston, and legal and rules, Jane Harris

We now have all the director and committee chairmen positions filled except for lawn chemicals. We still need somebody to interface with Scotts Lawn Service when required. You do not have to be a member of the board to head a committee.

In addition to the insurance and legal and rules, the committee chairmen are as follows:

Irrigation, Roads and Mowing: Tom Rugh

Roofs: Tom Vick

Common Grounds /Architectural Review: Art Madonia

East Village Master Association representative: Dianne Bonney



Common Grounds

Art Madonia

Art Madonia, who is in charge of our common grounds, has asked that people whose homes back up to the berm stop dumping their garden trimmings behind the hedge. The hedge has just been trimmed and the path behind the hedge is to be mowed and cleaned out in the next week. It is expensive to have this work done more than once a year. Your cooperation will help us save money.

Board Minutes To Be Available on Web Site

For those who like to read the minutes of the board meetings on the web site, and haven't seen them for about a year, please be advised that the problem has been corrected and the minutes should be available from now on.

Irrigation

Tom Rugh



Many of you are saying, "It's about time we are finally getting some irrigation water." Well I'm saying the same thing. What I failed to recognize was the effort it was going to require to modernize a 30-year-old pumping system. I truly believe we have completed our work on one of two supply lines. The good thing about all of this is that it also modernized much of the system required to upgrade the second supply line. That means the pump house would be new in a 30-year-old system. I'm sorry it took so long. I did the best I could for as little as I could. I cannot guess how many hours Dennis Gerber and I spent on this effort but it was work that I truly enjoyed.

When I return to Michigan this spring, I will resign my position on the Board of Directors and my irrigation duties. I have sensed that I may have overstayed my welcome and coupled with my physical limitations, it seems this is the best time. What we as a community need is another volunteer to assume my duties. There is a certain amount of training that is beneficial, so if you are remotely interested, please call me or Dennis. Thank you for your patience and the opportunity to work on what has turned out to be a very challenging task.

Exploring Our Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions

(Part of a Series)

By Jane Harris

Did you know.....

... Article 5.8 says only cars, vans, small pickup trucks (with no signage) can be parked in your driveway overnight? And no vehicles of any kind can be parked in the street overnight? And that all vehicles must be in good condition and operable? There's more in this Article...if you are interested, please go to your covenants.

... Article 7.5 says the homeowner is responsible for any covenant infractions of invitees, guests, tenants and occupants?

Ad Hoc Committee Begins Work on Covenants

The ad hoc Declarations, Covenants and Restrictions committee has been charged with the task of reviewing, revising and updating these 30-year-old documents. The committee, which includes Martin Hammond, Anne Heuvelman, John Johnston, Ed Warman and Jane Harris, has met for the first time. They will be working with an attorney to ensure our documents are in line with The Florida Statutes. The committee has set up a time-line for completion of the task by the December, 2016 Board of Directors meeting. They hope to have all updated documents ready for the annual meeting in 2017 for the vote of the residents. Information on the progress will be presented in the Willow Springs newsletter, so watch for their communications and let them know if you have specific Articles which are troublesome.

The Social Scene



Ladies Luncheon at Country Club

The March Willow Springs Ladies Luncheon will be held at noon Wednesday, March 23, at Jacaranda West Country Club. Edith Matson is coordinating the luncheon this month. To reserve a spot, contact her by Tuesday, March 21, by calling her at 493-8049 or email her at loumatson@comcast.net

A "Magical Moroccan Evening"...

...is the theme for the next social sponsored by the East Village Social Club on Saturday, April 2. To be held poolside from 6 to 7 p.m., the social hour will include complimentary wine and belly dancing (with audience participation). Those attending are encouraged to wear costumes and there will be a prize for the best.

A buffet dinner inside the clubhouse will follow the social hour and will include chicken kabobs, rice pilaf, Greek salad and tabbouleh as well as various Middle Eastern-style appetizers, coffee and baklava.

Admission is \$25 per person and only 64 tickets will be sold for this event. Tables of eight may be reserved. The door prize will be a Vizio 32-inch flat screen TV. For tickets contact: Terri Lagana, 315-374-5221, Marlene Fleming, 941-484-7013 or Pat Abde, 941-492-4664 or patriciaabde@msn.com

Coffee Hour Social

The coffee hour socials will continue at 9 a.m. April 7 at the clubhouse. Jane Harris will host this one. Many of those attending have been staying for the board meeting which follows at 10 a.m. Hope to see you there.

Hours of Operation

Please note hours of operation for facilities at the East Village Recreation Center:

Pool: Dawn to Dusk

Exercise Room and Library: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.



East Village Master Association

Dianne Bonney

There are two key issues being addressed by The East Village Master Association – neither of them new, neither of them yet resolved.

First – the matter of storage space – where to keep all those tables and chairs that make it possible for our residents to attend community events. Currently, EVMA is investigating the possibility of reconfiguring the locker room facilities. Items currently stored in the locker rooms have been affected by the moisture in the showers – mildew that needs to be wiped clean before each use. Alternative configurations are being reviewed, and will be discussed at upcoming meetings.

Second – the harvesting of tilapia from the lakes. (See Ed Warman’s commentary on this subject which follows.) Beautiful Ponds, the company that maintains our lakes, has a relationship with a firm who will harvest the tilapia in our ponds at no cost to the community. They make their money when they sell the tilapia to restaurants and other establishments. When this issue was first raised, roughly a year ago, the program was voluntary and each community had the choice to participate or not. Willow Springs voted NO.

The issue is still on the table. Heron Shores was the first, and at this time the only, community to say yes. Meadow Run is discussing the possibility as they share a lake with Heron Shores. The issue is twofold – what is the impact on interconnecting lakes if the decision is not unanimous – and what is the role of the EVMA and where does the final authority rest. The concern of Willow Springs is the potential for damage to our irrigation system as the tilapia is harvested using nets.

The Sarasota County Health Department has inspected our recreation facilities and were given a clean bill of health. Thank you Richard Higgins for a job well done.

Personal Commentary on Tilapia Harvest

**by Edward Warman,
Willow Springs Board Member**

Background: In brief, when Tilapia over-populate a lake, they often create erosion problems. This is particularly so for shallow ponds, such as those in several of our sister communities. In March 2014 the Willow Springs Board was first informed that the EVMA Lakes Committee was planning a Tilapia harvest in the lakes and asked that Willow Springs “consider participating in the program.” In meetings and correspondence Willow Springs representatives raised several concerns, including WS’s potential liability associated with the disposal of the fish. The plan was and still is to sell the fish for public consumption.

At the time, the EVMA committee chairman wrote “The Tilapia harvesting, if you choose to participate, **is completely voluntary and the decision whether or not to participate is completely up to the Board of Directors for the community in which the pond is located.**” (Emphasis added by EVMA chairman)

He also wrote: “The Tilapia will be harvested and sold by the company providing the service to our community.

Our concern is not with the disposal of the fish but rather with their removal.” We will pay them nothing for providing this service to our community.

The WS Board responded by unanimously voting to elect **not to participate** in the harvesting.

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Personal Commentary

(Continued from page 3)

Basis for Electing Not to Participate: In short, a majority of the members of the Board expressed serious reservations. These and some other observations are summarized here:

Firstly, the fact is that our lake was not then and is not now experiencing a Tilapia problem. (Our 14-foot-deep lake does not have an erosion problem, such as the 3-foot. shallow lakes.)

Tilapia harvesting presents an unnecessary risk to our irrigation system intake. We had, and still have, no scientific data on concentrations of pesticides that may be in the fish. As the lake's function is irrigation of our lawns, it is closely tied to lawn treatment chemicals. Our July 2015 lab test showed water concentration of atrazine was within EPA maximum limits. Nonetheless, fish consumption by pregnant women and young children remain a concern. Absent a statistically significant number of measurements of harvested Tilapia (not just a few) we would not be confident allowing a contractor to sell the fish to the general public. Indemnification of EVMA by the vendor harvesting and selling the fish to the public only partially mitigates a potentially large liability risk. It does nothing to reduce the actual risk to the public.

EVMA Update: EVMA interprets its amended and restated Declaration of Covenants as follows: "There is significant language that gives the EVMA and its Lake Committee powers over these bodies of water. The fish harvesting is the decision of the EVMA and its Lake Committee and not the individual communities. However, in our attempt to give greater participation to the communities, we allow them to make decisions affecting their common areas and, unfortunately, not all agree." EVMA's plans for a Tilapia harvest are proceeding.

Looking Ahead



March 13: Daylight Saving Time begins (clocks ahead)

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 23: Willow Springs Ladies Luncheon, noon, Jacaranda West Country Club

March 27: Easter Sunday

April 2: "A Magical Moroccan Evening," sponsored by the East Village Social Club, begins with a social hour from 6 to 7 p.m., poolside, at the clubhouse

April 7: Coffee hour social, 9 a.m., at the clubhouse

April 7: Next board meeting, 10 a.m., at the clubhouse

Until Next Time...