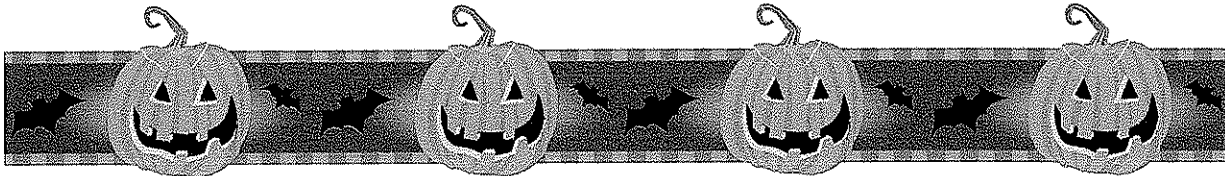




Willow Springs Watch

Volume 12, Issue 7

October 2011



From the President.....Dennis Gerber

Every year at this time the Willow Springs Board prepares to transition to a new board for the following year. A new financial budget must be prepared and voted on, and a nominating committee for new board members must be formed. Two-year terms for four positions will be voted on during February's annual meeting. Also, the balance of Warren Hurst's term (one year) must be filled.

Volunteers Needed: In last month's newsletter, it was announced that Willow Springs needs a representative to attend the monthly meetings of the East Village Master Association. The meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. and they last about an hour. If you can spare an hour at that time, we would really appreciate it. At the last meeting, they barely had enough members for a quorum and we were chastised for not sending anybody and doing our fair share! Let me know if you would be willing to serve in this capacity.

During the board meeting this month, we discussed ways in which we will maintain the butterfly garden (Lot 19) next year. In the past, we tried to solicit volunteers to stake claim to small portions of the garden for which they would be responsible. Unfortunately, that didn't work. Just not enough volunteers! An alternative is to pay somebody or some company to do it. It is estimated that it might cost \$6,000 per year for the weeding, trimming and edging. That's approximately \$20 per quarter per homeowner. Please contact your board members with your thoughts on how we could address this situation.

Lawn mowing schedule: At last month's board meeting, a request was made to change the day for cutting the grass from Monday to later in the week so that the lawns would look a lot better on the weekends. Jim Beach, who oversees the lawn-mowing contract, reported at this month's meeting that Ultimate Lawn Care has agreed to accommodate us. They will start cutting the grass on Wednesdays in the very near future.

Lawns (Weed/Feed).....Ray Fleming

When I arrived back from the North this month I was anxious to see how our Willow Springs lawns looked. My observation is, that, in general, they are as even in texture with fewer thin or bare areas as I've seen since I arrived in the neighborhood in 2005.

Scotts made its latest application on Friday, October 14, and were able to make the first application of nitrogen in the fertilizer since the end of May. They were not, however, able to use atrazine, which is still the best weed control

in St Augustine grass lawns. They (and other applicers) are still searching for weed controls that give good control during those periods when atrazine cannot be used. Scotts tried a new one this year and feel it worked better than last year. I do see fewer weeds than this time last year, but we still have too many and I have asked the Scotts rep to make a special weed treatment application next week when they can start using atrazine. So I think we'll be able to see considerably fewer weeds in three to four weeks.

I'm very pleased with the results of the re-sodding project we did this summer on the berm area behind the homes on Meadow Run Drive and the large lot where the entrance sign is located. Those areas are common property and have been an eyesore for some time. We made major changes in the irrigation system to ensure adequate water for the project, thinned out the large oak tree on the lot to allow more light, killed out the old grass, installed new sod and watered it daily all summer. I hope you agree that the result is very striking and is an asset to Willow Springs. As we approach the winter season we will see how much of the lawns are really crabgrass and Bermuda grass. Crabgrass is hard to tell from St Augustine grass in the summer. As always, as we see areas that need attention, especially in front lawns, we'll be making repairs in late March or early April.

Legal, Insurance and Rules.....Jane Harris

There are no legal issues to be addressed ... at this time. The architectural requests, as some of you may know, have been handed off (from Jim Beach.... and thank you, Jim, for managing this thankless work for several years!) to Gus Olson. Gus, and his wife, Karla, are fairly new residents to Willow Springs. Gus has been bringing himself up to speed on his committee functions. Please be a good neighbor and follow the rules established for us in our covenants so that Gus does not need to add "police officer" to his volunteer role on your board.

And, speaking of things architectural, a few finishing touches will soon be apparent at our mail center area, one of which will be a post with three mailboxes attached. These boxes are for homeowners' convenience to place their Architectural requests (remember---in triplicate.... master form is in your telephone directory), Irrigation requests and Lawn requests. Also, please remember to note your address and/or lot number and sign the requests so that your board members, who head these committees, can contact you should they have any questions. Many thanks to all of you who have been so generous in your positive comments about our updated mail center----and to one considerate soul who actually took the time to write a note of appreciation. Words of kindness are always music to a volunteer's ears!

The month of November will be dedicated to publishing an updated Willow Springs Telephone Directory. As a final reminder, to meet privacy laws WSHA must have homeowners' written permission to publish their personal information in our telephone directory. Under the advisement of our management company, I am starting the permission form process all over again, so those folks who have already completed a form will need to do so again. You will be receiving a mailing explaining the process and a **permission form that must be completed, signed and returned to Keys-Caldwell**. Without this form, I will not be able to post your telephone information in the directory. The directory will be going to the publisher on Monday, November 21, and delivery will commence Monday, November 28. When you receive your telephone directory please take a few moments to read through it. There is so much more helpful information included for our homeowners than just telephone numbers! And, if in perusing the directory, you think of something else you would like to have included in future revisions, please let me know...Jane Harris, 492-6862.

Treasurer's Report.....Warren Hurst

This month, the main focus of our board meeting was the budget for 2012. There was good news regarding the East Village Master Association and Keys-Caldwell--neither will be increasing their fees for 2012. After going through all the operational line items we felt at first glance that we will be able to maintain our current homeowners' assessment for 2012. We do have two areas of concern: the berm and trees. We are also looking into the cost of repairs to the irrigation system to deal with pipes becoming clogged with a form of algae. We should have some costs by the next meeting to make a determination regarding the 2012 budget. With 75 percent of the budget year

completed we are below budget (69.6 percent). With only three months to go we hope to end in the black. This comes from the hard work of those board members and homeowners working on various Willow Springs projects. They have made good decisions on hiring for these projects, as well as making sure those hired do it per our written agreement and on time.

The Board has decided to contact a homeowner regarding a late fee still owed. There was agreement among the Board to contact an attorney if necessary after the next board meeting regarding this matter. All homeowners, the Board agreed, should be held to the same standards regarding payment of assessments.

Meet New Neighbors

I was happy to welcome a new family into our neighborhood recently. Doug and Nancy Fowler have pretty much settled into their new home at 3121 Meadow Run Drive. They have lived in Florida off and on for about 10 years. They call Georgia their home state.

Celless Beck

Editor's Note: Celless is busy officially welcoming other new neighbors whom we will meet in upcoming editions of the newsletter. In the meantime, please reach out to William and Janet Woldt, who purchased Pat and June Hayden's home at 3109 Meadow Run, and Charles and Jane O'Leary, who purchased Barbara Edwards' home at 1193 Willow Springs Drive.)

Neighborhood Notes

Our long-time neighbors Frank and Helen Drudge have joined the ranks of part-time residents since their move late this summer to Indiana. They plan to return periodically to Florida and to Willow Springs and we all look forward to seeing them on these occasions. Their new address in Indiana is 7 Wisteria Lane, No. Manchester, IN. 46962.

In Memoriam

We offer our condolences to long-time Willow Springs resident Frank Nugent on the death of his wife Mildred.

From the Editor.....Phyllis Hammer

I learned something new recently (that's a shock, I thought I knew everything!) This regards the streetlights in our neighborhood, and I'm sharing this little tidbit with those of you who also don't know everything (the rest of you can just skip this part). The streetlight, which abuts my driveway, has been doing some weird things lately, like dimming down until it's almost out, then suddenly brightening. Now I don't normally stand around in the middle of the night staring up at the streetlight, but I happened to observe it several mornings when I went out to get the newspaper while it was still dark (thanks to my cat waking me up ... but that's another story). Wondering if this was normal behavior for a streetlight and whether or not I was expected to climb up that pole and replace the bulb, I found out from board member Jane Harris that the Florida Power and Light maintains them. That was a relief. As instructed by Jane, I found the pole number etched into the pole and called the FPL customer service number. When I described the light's dimming and brightening, the customer service person told me that no, the lights were not supposed to do that. She took down the address and pole number and assured me an order would be submitted and the light would be repaired. So the next time you find yourself standing in the dark staring at a streetlight acting "weird" (the streetlight acting weird, not you) you'll know what to do.

Looking Ahead ...

Oct. 24: United Nations Day

Oct. 31: Halloween

Nov. 5: Guy Fawkes' Day in Great Britain

Nov. 6: Daylight Saving Time ends (clocks go BACK one hour)

Nov. 11: Veterans' Day

Nov. 21: Next Board meeting, 11 a.m.

And ... in case we don't get a November newsletter out before the holiday...

Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Day (*if you start now, you can probably get your frozen turkey thawed by then*)

Until Next Time...

Happy  Halloween