



# *Willow Springs Watch*

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## *From the President*

**Dennis Gerber**

I have somewhat of an announcement to make. Billie and I moved into Willow Springs on November 15, 2002. It was just a few days later that Tom Morgan came over and introduced himself. He was the president of the HOA at the time, and apparently the head of the Welcoming Committee. In addition to reinforcing the rules and regulations of the community, he tried to recruit me for the board of directors! He needed somebody to replace Joe Johnson who had been the treasurer for nine years. "Not a hard job. Just like balancing your checkbook." Can't remember why I agreed at the time, but I did. After spending a few years doing that, we needed somebody to manage the irrigation system. "Not a hard job, just a little time-consuming!" Then after a few years of doing that, it became my turn to be president. "Not a hard job, just need a thick skin!"

After prayerful thought, and a little encouragement from Billie, I've decided it's time to give other, younger people an opportunity to serve this wonderful community. Consequently, at the end of my current term next February, I will be stepping down. I feel comfortable that now is a good time to do that. We've had a relative high turnover of homeowners the last few years. We now have a lot of young, talented, energetic people that would be excited to serve. So, during the next few months we'll need to develop some sort of succession plan. Let me know your thoughts.

## *Notes from the April Board Meeting*

There was much discussion from board members and residents who were in attendance at the April board meeting regarding weed problems in our yards, particularly dollar weed. There are also problems with the fertilization applications. The board member who was in charge of chemical applications to our lawns resigned several months ago. The board is requesting that anyone interested in filling this position contact Dennis Gerber. You do not have to be a member of the board to serve in this capacity.

\* \* \*

The possibility of using a "bubbler" to aerate the water in our lake was suggested by Tom Rugh during his irrigation report. The aeration process would aid in providing oxygen in the deeper parts of the lake and improve the habitat for fish. The initial cost would be somewhere around \$3,000 with routine maintenance costs in addition. There was considerable discussion about the need for improving the system since there has also been discussion about the need to have the tilapia removed to eliminate overcrowding. No decision was made on this matter.

\* \* \*

President Dennis Gerber asked Tom Rugh to get an estimate of the cost for an addition to the pump house for the golf cart storage. Tom Rugh also reported that Hostetler Irrigation Inc. has been terminated and he has contracted with SprinklerWorks to service our sprinkler system. The contract for delivery of the chlorine to the pump house is being negotiated.

## **Time to Check the Time**

Through the years, we've discovered that it's necessary to periodically check the irrigation controllers (the ones in your garage). We'd like to ask the homeowners to open the covers and check that the time displayed is current (or within a couple of minutes). If you need help doing that, put a note in the irrigation box and we'll get somebody to contact you. Also, if you see that the time needs to be adjusted, let us know. **DON'T ATTEMPT TO DO IT YOURSELF.** It's a little complicated. It's easy to screw things up!



***East Village Master Association***

***Dianne Bonney***

The East Village Master Association Board is looking at different options for utilization of the current locker rooms. Some of the space on the women's side has been converted to storage. However, mildew has become a problem. A second issue is the misuse of the facility. Some individuals use the locker room to perform personal hygiene routines – shaving, hair coloring and daily showering. As a result, Richard Higgins must spend an inordinate amount of time cleaning the shower areas and has less time to address other maintenance needs.

One plan being looked at is to remove the showers, leaving the commodes and sinks in the section of the building closest to the pool. The area toward the parking lot could be used for a recreation room and storage. No firm plans are in place – the board authorized Jim Davison to continue to look at options and price those options. The current outside shower will remain and a heater will be added to provide hot water so residents will still be able to rinse off after using the pool or the hot tub.

A new garbage disposal has been installed in the clubhouse and a dishwasher will be coming. The board has also OK'd new tabletops for the poker tables.

The annual meeting for the East Village Master Association will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 14, in the clubhouse. Dennis Gerber will be representing Willow Springs at that meeting, which is open to all residents of East Village communities.

## **Board Meeting Minutes Available on Web Site**

This is just a reminder that for those who like to read the minutes of the board meetings on the web site, the minutes should be available from now on. You should be aware that the minutes are not official until they have been accepted by the board at the following month's board meeting. Therefore, the minutes of the March meeting, for example, would not be available until after the April board meeting. Our thanks to John Johnston, who has been working with Terri Lagana to update the information.

# The Social Scene



## April Ladies Luncheon at Old Salty Dog

The April Willow Springs ladies luncheon will be held at noon Wednesday, April 27, at the Old Salty Dog, 1475 Tamiami Trail on the island of Venice near the South Bridge. Betsi Hallman and Irene Warman are in charge of reservations, which must be made by April 25. Contact Betsi at 408-0847 or by e-mail at

[ehallman1@verizon.net](mailto:ehallman1@verizon.net) or Irene at 493-1267 or by e-mail at [warman.ed@gmail.com](mailto:warman.ed@gmail.com)

## May Ladies Luncheon at Robbie's Reef

*(Since the May Willow Springs Ladies Luncheon will be happening so close to when the next newsletter is to be published, and since arrangements have already been made, we are publicizing the May luncheon also this month.)*

Sandy Buxton and Pat DeBrucker have planned this one which will be held at noon, Wednesday, May 11, at Robbie's Reef Restaurant Bar & Market. This will take place at the restaurant's new location at 900 Venetia Bay Blvd. in Venice (in front of the Hampton Inn). Sandy will be accepting reservations until 3 p.m. Monday, May 9. So e-mail her at [sandybeach10@verizon.net](mailto:sandybeach10@verizon.net) or call her and leave a message at 410-544-0431

## Coffee Hour Social in May

The last coffee hour social of the season will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. Thursday, May 5, at the East Village clubhouse. We have been pleased to see some of our newer residents as well as some long-time residents at these events. If you like, you may stay afterwards for the board meeting which starts at 10 a.m.

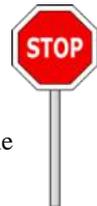


## Some Neighborly Reminders



Residents are reminded to pick up after their dogs when they walk them. Most of our dog-walking residents are diligent about this, but there are been complaints that some of you are not always abiding by this rule. Please be considerate of your neighbors and clean up after your dog!

Those stop signs in Willow Springs mean what they say: STOP. Just because they're on Willow Springs property does not mean we can ignore them when we're driving. There have been complaints about residents rolling through the stop signs (particularly the one on Meadow Run Drive). Be a good neighbor and obey the stop signs. We also remind residents that when they are pedestrians they should also follow the rules of the road...walk facing traffic and keep to the curbside.



## Courtesy Needed in Our Neighborhood

Living as we do on the corner located by the stop sign on Meadow Run Drive, the Beck family has observed some pretty frightening traffic patterns. The worse part of this observation is that we see our very own Willows Springs neighbors flagrantly disregarding the speed limit and the stop sign.

Before writing this I gave what I wanted to say much thought and also did some research. Going to the Internet to search "Stop signs" in Florida this is what I found.

The Purpose of Stop Signs: "The Stop Sign is used to assign right of way at an intersection and predictability." This is pretty forthright. Given this purpose one can see the possible tragic results of just driving right through the intersection and often doing so with acceleration. The stop sign was placed at the intersection for very well thought-out purposes. Please STOP and LOOK before continuing on your way.

We have signs posting reasonable speed limits as many other neighborhoods have. Researching once again I found that driving 20 miles an hour you will continue forward motion for an additional 20 feet after braking.

Writing all the above is to share the reasons we have posted the signs we have in Willow Springs. It all comes down to showing common courtesy to others. This should have been learned in elementary school. Unfortunately, our baser selves are being displayed frequently. We share these roads with pedestrians, bikers, and cars. We walk our pets and visit with our neighbors. Slowing down is really a courtesy to others sharing the same space.

I personally have observed shaking fists, flashing the third finger, using a car as a weapon (steering towards pedestrians with anger and intent), heard four-letter words directed at walkers, and shaking of fist directed at drivers, and observed the acceleration through the stop sign.

A suggestion for our board of directors to consider is the painting of a "bike/walkers lane" on one side of our road ways. That would be a reasonable avenue to pursue and perhaps better than calling the sheriff or an ambulance when drivers are careless

Being a neighbor should equal the term neighborly which means to be congenial, amicable, and cordial. Can't we all just get along?

*Celless Beck*



## Looking for Volunteers

A volunteer is needed to head the lawn fertilization/weed control committee. This person would interact with the contractor for these services and oversee that the contract stipulations are being met. If you would be willing to serve in this capacity, contact Dennis Gerber.

\* \* \*

Volunteers are also needed to serve on an ad hoc committee to look at long-range plans for beautification needs of the community. Call Art Madonia if you would be interested in working with this committee.

## They Found Paradise Here in Venice

For many of you Willow Springs is a place you call home, but for some of us, it is a newfound escape and playground, a place to adventure, and a solace from day-to-day cares.

As newer residents, we are thrilled every time (month!!) we return. Last June, we traveled up and down the West Coast and were not sure where we would land. Call it fate that we would set our sights on Venice.

At a chance meeting with Willow Spring's Edith Matson and her sweet dog, Molly, we learned of this inviting neighborhood and beautifully manicured and well-built homes. Sam and I were fortunate to have found the perfect house and have been busy since sprucing it up to make it our own. Being surrounded by great neighbors has made us feel secure and welcomed, especially by Anne and Dave Heuvelman, who have been so kind as to invite us for a meal, or cocktails, and receiving our packages when we are away.

Our family couldn't be happier with the easy-breezy living, the well-mannered people, wonderful restaurants, and partying nightlife to enjoy. I would be remiss not to mention the obvious, the great golfing, fishing, beautiful white sandy beaches and the magical sunsets!

Our family steals away to Venice every chance we can get in hopes of making many wonderful memories here. We are so happy to have found our paradise in Venice and are pleased to be a part of the Willow Springs community.

*Laura Fasciano  
3154 Willow Springs Circle*



### ***Special Projects***

#### ***Jane Harris***

Your ad hoc Forms Committee will commence review and revision of the Notice of Ownership Transfer and Rental Application forms in May. The revised forms will be ready for Board review when it reconvenes in September. Anybody interested in assisting me with this process may contact me at 492.6862 or [jesharris2@comcast.net](mailto:jesharris2@comcast.net).

\* \* \*

Your ad hoc documents review/revision committee has met twice. The committee, including Martin Hammond, John Johnston, Ed Warman and Jane Harris, will be working through the summer with the goal of homeowner approval at the annual meeting.

## Exploring Our Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions

*(Part of a Series)*

***By Jane Harris***

### Did you know...

...your covenants, Article 5.9 Pets, speaks to the type of pets you may have and how they must be managed? ".....any pet must be carried or kept on a leash when outside of a UNIT or fenced-in area. No pet shall be kept outside of a UNIT, or in a screened patio, unless someone is present in a UNIT. Any pet must not be an unreasonable nuisance or annoyance to other residents of the SUBJECT PROPERTY. Any resident shall pick up and remove any solid animal waste deposited by his pet on the SUBJECT PROPERTY, except for designated pet-walk areas, if any. No commercial breeding of pets is permitted within the SUBJECT PROPERTY. The ASSOCIATION may require any pet to be immediately and permanently removed from the SUBJECT PROPERTY due to a violation of this paragraph."

## ***Looking Ahead...***



**April 27: Willow Springs Ladies Luncheon, noon, Old Salty Dog, Venice island**

**May 5: Coffee Hour Social, 9 to 10 a.m. at the East Village Clubhouse**

**May 5: Next board meeting, 10 a.m. at the clubhouse**

**May 11: Willow Springs Ladies Luncheon, noon, new Robbie's Reef Restaurant Bar & Market, 900 Venetia Bay Blvd., Venice**



***From the Editor***

***Phyllis Hammer***

I learned recently during a trip to Publix about the value of a smile and a little humor. I guess I really didn't learn it. Let's just say I had it reinforced.

It started in a crowded aisle where several shoppers with carts were trying to get through while a store employee was stocking the shelves from a large container. Instead of glaring and snapping at one another, all the customers were trying to make room for each other and along the way, making funny comments to one another.

A little later one of those same customers and I had another run-in in another aisle and he said something funny, at which I, of course, laughed. Still later, at the check-out counter I ran into him again and he made a remark about my beating him to the check-out lane, and I told him I was just trying to get out of his way. When I turned to leave, the young man who had bagged my groceries asked, as they always do, if I needed help taking them out. When I said "no, thank you" he gave me a big smile and I smiled back. (What can I say? I'm on a roll.)

Pulling out of the parking lot, I noticed a woman in front of the store with her cart waiting to cross into the parking lot. I stopped. She stepped into the crosswalk and turned and with a wave of her hand, smiled. I waved and smiled back.

In the grand scheme of things, these may not have been earth-shaking events, but as I drove out of the parking lot, I was thinking how just being civil to one another and offering a smile or a funny comment had turned what could have been irritating situations into ones that left me with a smile on my face.

We should do this more often.

**Until Next Time...**