



Willow Springs Watch

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From the President's Desk

Jane Harris

The next big project facing all of us is the house painting, which begins Jan. 15. John Johnston is adding all the information to our web site so that those of you who have computers can access it for reference as your need dictates. The other folks will have received a hard copy with the delivery of this newsletter (thank you, Dorothy Jones).

Larry Swain has agreed to be the point person for this huge project. I, in my infinite forgetfulness, neglected to introduce Larry at the December board meeting. (Here is a public request for forgiveness, Larry, as I know you and Lisa left the beach to attend the meeting.) You will be meeting Larry and his wife, Lisa, soon.

For the "Bermies" (those whose property abuts the berm) Glenn Vitaglione commented at the December meeting about the poor condition of the berm shrubs. Actually, he asked where the berm shrubs were! As we have cleaned away the vines, which were killing the wax myrtle shrubs, there have been gaping holes exposing Center Road traffic with the resultant loss of WSH privacy.

To digress, the major goal of your board for FY 2018 is to improve all common areas as our Covenants direct your board to do. The common area requiring immediate attention, now that the lake trees have been managed, is the berm. We are now assessing the berm open areas to determine how many shrubs will need to be purchased. These shrubs will be planted as soon as the nursery says we can safely do so during this winter season. Canopies on trees will be lifted to give existing, and new shrubs, the sunlight needed to grow. As there is already irrigation, we are expecting the berm will be green and lush, with proper maintenance, before 2018 ends.

Before bon soiree, if anybody is interested in a fun casual bike ride a couple of evenings a week...maybe, at least occasionally, followed by libations around a toasty campfire, please contact me...941.492.6862 or jharriswsb@comcast.net.

Notes from December Board Meeting

- President Jane Harris discussed the upcoming painting of Willow Springs homes to be started Jan. 15, 2018. Homeowners have certain responsibilities before the actual process of painting begins. One of these involves the Bahama shutters. These should be left attached to the window and will be painted unless they are the new shutters with the powder coating on them. If there are repairs needed before the painting process begins, owners should do that. The paint applied will be the same color as it is presently. More detailed information can be found in the e-mail sent out to all homeowners Dec. 3.
- Presently, bids are being obtained for the sod. This will be done before Dec. 31.
- The filters for the pump will be installed by Dec. 31. With the additional work of cleaning the irrigation heads in all yards the water produced is more abundant.
- There was a lengthy discussion about the covenants and the responsibility of the board in understanding and following them.
- Jane Harris shared information using our demographics and actual reactions before and during Hurricane Irma. The television was a constant resource for warnings and sharing direction and velocity of the hurricane. Also, a constant resource was Sarasota County sending out e-mail information as did Jim Kraut, from our management company. Many of our neighbors helped other neighbors with storm shutters, general preparation for the storm, as well as giving shelter to those who didn't want to weather the storm alone. An ad hoc committee will be formed to develop a plan in cases such as a hurricane or other emergency, to help guide future needs of our Willow Springs neighborhood.
- Treasurer's report from Larry Ziegler: The only over-budget item for this year is for irrigation. This is largely due to maintenance expense, i.e., cleaning heads and repair and replacement.
- ARC report from Michael James: Non-compliance letters were sent out Nov. 22. Several architectural modification requests were approved.
- New Business: The budget was mailed to all residents and the opportunity for comments and/or questions was given at the board meeting. After a motion and a second the budget for 2018 was approved by the board.
- The next meeting will be Jan. 4, 2018.



Celless Beck
Staff Writer

Irrigation

Joe DellaValle



We are finding a lot of flags that have been put out, without a note in the irrigation box at the mail center to explain the reason for the flag.

Remember, blue flags are for **repair only**. Please state the reason for the flag in a note placed in the irrigation box at the mail box center. Any other colored flag should be used only if you find a sprinkler head that needs to be uncovered.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Part-time Residents Asked to Notify Keys-Caldwell

To our homeowners who are not full-time residents of Willow Springs. When you are in residence in Willow Springs, please contact Keys-Caldwell, our property management company, letting them know you are in residence. This will allow them to send mail to your Venice address. Please do the same when you go back North. The phone number for Keys-Caldwell is 941-408-8293, email kcweb@keys-caldwell.com.

Michaele James

Willow Springs Board Secretary

Contractor to Provide Free Mulch-Spreading

Our contract with Ultima, our lawn mowing contractor, allows for mulch spreading at **no cost** to homeowners. However, each homeowner who takes advantage of this service will be responsible for the cost of mulch for their home. We are looking into bulk pricing at this time and will have that information available by Dec. 13. The mulch will all be the same color—dark brown or black. The mulch will not be delivered to your home address, but must be picked up from one of two locations (the mail center or the Willow Springs garden area on Willow Springs Circle.) We will try to have a volunteer work force to assist those who need help moving the mulch. If you are interested, please e-mail Karen Yerich at kary316@aol.com before Dec.16, indicating the number of bags of mulch you wish to purchase.

Looking for Front Door Screen Frames to Powder-coat

Several homeowners have expressed an interest to Joe DellaValle in having their front door screen frames powder-coated. Joe is hoping that the more homes we have the better the cost will be. He will be getting a quote for his home next week. After that, he will get a quote for powder-coating a number of homes. Any homeowners who would like to have their front screen doors powder-coated, please send your name and lot number to Joe at joe.jag4331@gmail.com.



From the Editor

Phyllis Hammer

During the upcoming holiday season, many of you may be flying somewhere to visit relatives or maybe for an exotic vacation.

I have discovered a new way to travel by air that eliminates many of the lines and a good bit of the frustrations of air travel. And I am going to share it with you.

This new way of flying is something called “needs assistance,” and this is how it works. There is a little note added to your ticket that says (surprise) “needs assistance.” This results in all sorts of interesting and helpful reactions on the part of airport and airline employees. I learned this when I recently flew to Tennessee to help out my sister whose husband was in the hospital.

As many of you know, I fell last February and managed to smash my left femur. I’m still walking with a cane. (Hey, it beats the wheelchair and the walker that I was using previously.)

I am a reluctant flier at best and the thought of flying alone, and changing planes while hobbling on my cane was a little daunting. But I had help. My daughter booked my flights (and the “needs assistance” designation) for me. Neighbors took me to the airport in Sarasota (thank you Jane and Remey Harris) and another picked me up on my return (thank you Joe DellaValle, and you, too, Cyndee.)

I soon discovered what my “needs assistance” status meant. I was met at the check-in by a man with a wheelchair who pushed me straight to the security area where I was taken aside and asked if there was a reason I couldn’t go through the scanner. When I explained about the metal plate and screws in my thigh, the agent wiped down my hands and the wheelchair. (I have no idea what that was about, but apparently I passed.) I was sent on to my escort who pushed the wheelchair (with me in it) to the gate. When the plane started boarding, I was given priority boarding, which meant I got to go ahead of everybody else in line. I admit even though I felt a little guilty about being pushed ahead of other people already in line, I didn’t feel guilty enough to object.

And so went the whole trip to and from Tennessee. At each stop there was someone waiting for me with a wheelchair to whisk me off to the next security area, the next gate, or the next baggage claim. The last time I had flown as an able-bodied person I remember there being a lot of walking (sometimes running) and a lot of standing in lines. I could get used to this. The only catch is... I had to break a leg to make it possible.

 **Until Next Time..’**