



Willow Springs Watch

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May 2017



From the President's Desk

Jane Harris

There have been three meetings since your new board was elected in February, with the first official meeting commencing March 2.

This is the summary of all three meetings.

New committee chairmen have been assigned, existing contracts reviewed to ensure they meet current needs, and the first quarter budget was reviewed. As irrigation expenses exceeded budget, causes and processes to control costs for the remainder of the current fiscal year were explored.

Your board also addressed, and resolved, complicated board member issues which resulted in two more board vacancies. A volunteer stepped forward to fill one vacancy in April and another in May leaving one more board vacancy to be filled.

Our first priority, and one which must be resolved prior to implementation of our organizational plan, is to have a dependably functioning irrigation system consistently operating, and within budgetary constraints.

We determined the current contracted services were not meeting our needs and were already exceeding budget. A decision was made to change irrigation maintenance providers, and the new provider commenced work Saturday, May 6, as a result of a quasi-irrigation emergency. We expect to have the current irrigation system repaired and meeting performance standards by the end of May. Refinement of spray patterns for adequate lawn and garden coverage will be ongoing.

As your irrigation system is checked, your irrigation clock (if you are home) will have been checked and reset as necessary. Do not change these clock settings as they have been coordinated with pump function to ensure your lawn is receiving adequate water, and that each zone is receiving water for the designated length of time.

To save money (at least \$800), a temporary volunteer work team started cleaning irrigation heads on each homeowner's property, saving common ground property for last. This is an arduous job requiring much effort to first locate the heads, many of which are buried under thick grass, and then clean them. A volunteer team will continue to perform simple repairs, contributing to ongoing irrigation savings.

We are asking for your patience and cooperation as we move through this initial first phase of ensuring all homes are irrigating as scheduled.

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From the President's Desk

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An integral component of your irrigation clock functioning correctly is that batteries are changed at a regular time each year. To be sure all batteries are new, and therefore can be relied upon, we will be changing all batteries within the same time frame as follows:

- Wednesday, May 31, beginning at 8 a.m., a Willow Springs volunteer will come to your house to change your irrigation clock battery. You may facilitate this process by allowing our volunteers quick access to your garage by leaving your garage door open.
- If you are out-of-town, and you have not given another local person access to your garage you will need to contact me at 941.492.6862 or wsirrigation@aol.com to make an appointment for the alternate date, June 5.
- If our volunteers cannot gain access to your garage, a piece of blue tape will be placed in the middle of your garage door indicating your irrigation clock battery needs to be changed. Contact me by following directions above.
- We ask that all WS homeowners support our annual battery change program.

We are moving through a dry, windy period and know yards are suffering. We appreciate your patience as we work to resolve this very aggravating problem. When irrigation is working dependably our plan is to address grass problems. In the meantime, please use the irrigation mailbox at the mail center for irrigation requests or send them to wsirrigation@aol.com.

Neighbor Keeps an Eye Out for Open Garage Doors

Our neighbor and new board member Ashleigh James, who often walks her dog after dark, has noticed some neighbors are forgetting to close their garage doors at night. Concerned for their safety, because open garage doors provide easy access into our homes, Ashleigh has often rung doorbells to remind neighbors to close their garage doors. But she realizes that many may be afraid of answering their doors at night.

Ashleigh has a solution: if you hear your doorbell ring around 9 or 10 p.m. you don't have to answer the door, just check to see if your garage door is closed. You will be safer and Ashleigh will be happier.



Notes from the May

Board Meeting



- Pat Vinti, representing the East Village Master Association, spoke to the board members and homeowners attending the board meeting about the retention pond in our neighborhood. He explained that removing the tilapia and armored catfish from our pond will help make it cleaner. Our pond is not the largest pond in the Association; however, it is the deepest. With dry weather affecting the ponds the fish will naturally seek the deeper water. He assured everyone that no game fish would be taken during the netting process. The Master Association will stand behind any landscape, shore line, or personal property affected adversely by this removal process. Willow Springs resident Remy Harris, as well as Pat, will be present during the process.
- It was moved, seconded and approved to appoint Ashleigh James as a new board member to fill an open seat on the board. Welcome Ashleigh.
- President Jane Harris spent a great deal of time explaining the situation with the irrigation system. Because of Sprinkler Work's failure to do the contracted job and the cost of utilizing their services they will be terminated as the irrigation contractor for our neighborhood. After seeking other vendors to take the responsibility, the board recommended one vendor that has met the board's criteria. David Nicholas will be asked to submit a contract with the clause that it is a month- by- month contract.
- There were four requests from homeowners to the Architectural Committee which were approved by the Board.
- Remy Harris has given positive approval of Trugreen's chemical application. The chemicals that are being applied are slow-release and will not burn our grass.
- Celless Beck reported on the Master Association Board meeting. A "no parking on the streets at night" resolution was passed. A plan is in the process to update fitness equipment in the exercise facility. The contractor doing the painting for the pickle ball court did not get paid because of an unsatisfactory job. The web site has been updated and members are encouraged to use it. There are plans for adding a popcorn machine in the club house in the near future.
- Jim DeBrucker reported that he is getting bids from painting contractors for the 2018 project to paint Willow Springs houses.
- Vice president Karen Yerich has assumed a new position on the board. She is looking over all contracts for services for Willow Springs. She has been checking the contracts with Ultima and Trugreen. Ultima is a continuing contract negotiated in 2013. There is a 60-day "out clause" in this contract. The contract with Trugreen is an assumption of the existing Scott's contract and is viable for the remainder of FY 2017. A new contract includes a 15-day response to a request or problem that must be submitted in writing.

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Notes From May Board Meeting

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- Jane Harris will be contacting the attorney for direction on which will best support Willow Springs homeowners' compliance with architectural expectations--Estoppel letter, Latches or Clean Slate letters. All of these change clarification on "Clean Slate" as it pertains to Willow Springs.
- A new ad hoc committee is in the process of being formed to develop criteria for the board's reference for consistency when reviewing architectural requests from Willow Springs homeowners. The committee is expected to write up a plan to use as criteria for approving changes in our neighborhood.
- There has been a sale of the home at lot 47 (1191 Willow Springs Dr.) with new neighbors having moved in. Welcome to the neighborhood Robert and Penny Malone.

The meeting was adjourned in one hour and 20 minutes.

The next board meeting will be at 10a.m. June 1 in the clubhouse.

Celless Beck

Amended Documents Available



Our management company, Keys-Caldwell, has arranged for access to the Amended and Restated Declarations, Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Amended and Restated Bylaws through Google. You may obtain a copy by following these instructions:

- Go to Google and type in keys-caldwell.com;
- click on references; scroll to Willow Springs;
- click on the website tab for Willow Springs;
- click the documents tab on the left column.

These governing documents also have been posted, and are available for review on the East Village Master Association's web site www.eastvillageofvenice.com



Hours of Operation



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

Pool: Open from dawn to dusk

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



Welcome Committee

Sandy Buxton

Again, I personally, along with your neighbors, welcome all you new or fairly new Willow Springs residents to your community.

As chairman of the welcoming committee (of one), I recently received a new directory with our new neighbors' names, phone numbers and addresses. I will do my best in the next few months to call and/or visit with you. If you have not been given a new directory, please contact me at

sandybeach110@verizon.net. Or phone me at 941- 493- 3235; or phone or text me at 410-544- 0431.

Also, I could use a helping hand. If you are an outgoing person who would like to welcome and connect with a new neighbor, please email or call me.

As soon as we catch up, then the committee could possibly also visit or call on people who are shut-in due to an accident or illness.

I really would appreciate any help you could offer. Thank you so much.

The Social Scene



- The May Willow Springs Ladies Luncheon will be held at noon Wednesday, May 24, at Word of Mouth, 1740 East Venice Ave. Celless Beck and Karen Yerich are planning this one. Reservations must be made by Sunday, May 21, with Celless at bgarcell@verizon.net - phone 941-408-1762 or Karen at kary316@aol.com - phone 941-493 -9321.
- Diane Sernatinger and Michael James are planning a “Mid-summer’s Eve” social event for Willow Springs residents this summer. Date and time will be in June’s newsletter and there will be a flier at the mailbox. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Until Next Time...