Players Journal

The official newspaper of the Sawgrass Players Club Homeowners Association

www.SawgrassPlayersClub.org • VOL. 14 Issue 4 • WINTER 2021

The latest on Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge development project

By William J. Haley

The new Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge development is well underway and has been under active construction since the beginning of 2021. Construction vehicles currently come through the A1A entrance, which presently is the only access in and out of the site. As reported in earlier Players Journals, a newly constructed clubhouse will be the nerve center of the development, including utilities, dining, recreation and conference facilities. The clubhouse, which is going up quickly, is a critical path operation and is expected to be completed by June 2022. The cottages being constructed on Parcel A-1 are also well underway and are expected to be completed for occupancy in July/ August 2022. Presently, all of the cottages are sold.

Parcel C Water Retention Facility

When Alta Mar Holdings and Vicar's Landing were granted St. Johns County permits to begin construction of the project, a key structural element concerning Parcels A-1, A-2 and B was the significant amount of hardscape necessary to facilitate construction of new housing units, utilities and access roads. Previously, when the construction site was a golf course, it included several ponds and waterways, which collected water in storms of varying severity and distributed the water safely so as not to create dangerous flood plains. A key engineering and permitting challenge of the new project has been to create a new water retention

Vicar's Landing cont. on pg. 8

Photo courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

Looking west from A1A towards the two flats, clubhouse, cottages and the Parcel C lake.

President's Comments

By TJ Welsh

As we close the books on 2021 and prepare for 2022, I would like to applaud all our residents (old and new) for remaining resilient and overall, cheerful throughout this continued pandemic. I once again applaud the herculean (and voluntary) efforts from our standing and ad hoc committees to maintain the high standards of the Sawgrass Players Club in concert with our paid professionals at Marsh Landing Management. After my third full year as your president, I am struck by the dedication and passion and willingness to serve that this small army exerts on behalf of the entire Players Club HOA.

Work progresses on the revitalization of The Yards complex, with work continuing on the new pickleball complex. The work continues as well on the new maintenance and pumping buildings that have been relocated close to Solano Road. I urge even casual golfers to go over and play a round of truly enjoyable golf. Major construction is underway at the new Vicar's Landing and St. Johns County has almost completed construction of the new sewage lift station off Nina Court in the Oakbridge subdivision. The area will be landscaped and the new berms installed around the station per approved plans. I urge all homeowners to stay abreast of the progress through the numerous updates on the Players Club website (https://sawgrassplayersclub.org/). This is the single best source of up to date information on the progress thus far and any major evolutions that are pending that could affect you in either your travels on our roadways or on any potential evolutions that will affect those homes overlooking the course.

We anticipate a major paving project that will extend from TPC Boulevard down Alta Mar; and from Alta Mar down Salt Creek Drive to the Salt Creek Bridge. The Salt Creek community is exploring dovetailing the paving of all the sub association roads within Salt Creek. Below ground work continues through the OMW (Operations, Maintenance & Waterways) Committee, as we continue to upgrade our ability to handle major rain events and storms through the water management system. Many of these projects are costly but needed and have been planned for in our reserves. Diligent work by both the OMW and Finance committees keep our focus on these needed projects in conjunction with our partners at the PGA Tour to keep our community as safe as possible during hurricanes and storms. One way that we can ensure our ability to perform these upgrades and planned replacements is with the passage of the Capital Asset Fee that we will all be voting on in early February. This fee will be assessed to new homeowners who purchase their homes after May 1, and the fee will be approximately $2,500 (or one-and-one-half times the annual Master HOA dues).

I'd like to touch on a couple of questions that residents have raised to the Master HOA in email, calls, social media, or in person at our town hall held in December. Some have wondered why we will not be assessing this

President's Comments cont. on pg. 3

Reminder: **A special Meeting of the Members is planned for Feb. 3, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the TPC Clubhouse. This meeting is to vote on a proposed covenant amendment that will establish a capital contribution or capital asset fee.**

All meeting materials and your proxy are being mailed out on Jan. 14, 2022.

You may either vote at the meeting in person, or vote by mailing back your pre-stamped limited proxy indicating your vote not later than Feb. 1, 2022.

Florida NewsLine
450 State Road 13 North Suite 106 PMB 101
St. Johns, FL 32259

Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Ft Myers, FL
Permit No.521

We're Building Oak Bridge So You Can Build Your

Perfect Retirement.

Enjoy Ponte Vedra Beach's outdoor activities

With the original Vicar's Landing and Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge, now under construction,

Convenient nearby shopping and restaurants

you have two incredible options for luxury retirement living. Both properties feature gorgeous homes, every amenity under the sun, the most attentive staff you'll ever meet, and a plan for every stage of aging. Enjoy comfort, security, and a warm, inviting community that truly feels like home. Whether you choose Vicar's Landing or Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge, just don't choose to wait. Thanks to high demand, space at both properties is limited. **Call us now to take a tour.**

VICAR'S LANDING

Life Choice Community™

904.285.6000 | VicarsLanding.com

VICAR'S LANDING AT OAK BRIDGE

FLORIDA NewsLine

450 State Road 13 North
Suite 106 PMB 101
St. Johns, FL 32259
(904) 886-4919
www.FloridaNewsLine.com

Publisher
Mark Pettus
Publisher@FloridaNewsLine.com

Editor
Martie Thompson
Editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

Bookkeeper
Emily Whitehead
Accounting@FloridaNewsLine.com

Social Media
SocialMedia@FloridaNewsLine.com

Advertising Sales
Linda Gay
Linda@FloridaNewsLine.com
(904) 607-5062 cell

Rebecca Thomson
Rebecca@FloridaNewsLine.com
(724) 968-7602 cell

@TheFloridaNewsLine

Players Journal is a free quarterly publication distributed via mail to all Sawgrass Players Club property owners. Submission of articles and photographs are received by mail or email, although email to editor@FloridaNewsLine.com is preferred. The writers' opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Florida Newsline. Advertising Rates are available by request.

Florida NewsLine is not responsible for advertisement content or accuracy of information provided by its advertisers. Nor does Florida NewsLine endorse any of the products or services included in this publication. Florida NewsLine reserves the right to refuse advertisement or copy from any advertiser. All rights are reserved and no portion of this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the publisher. ©2022.

Yes, it's that time of year: the Recreation Committee is gearing up for our annual, always fun-filled event, Winterfest.

Come join us on Sunday, Jan. 30, noon to 3 p.m. at Players Park.

We'll have some of our usual favorites: the dual slide, the trackless train, the rock climbing wall and face painting. We've added a new activity this year — a bungee jump! Of course, there will be music provided by a DJ. Our wonderful and always supportive local Dunkin' Donuts will provide complimentary hot chocolate, coffee and donut holes. A pizza truck and a hamburger and hot dog truck will be available for great meals or snacks.

Just in case we have a bad weather day, Sunday, Feb. 6, same time, same place, is our back up plan.

We'll be looking for you at Players Park on Sunday, Jan. 30, from noon to 3 p.m.! Hope to see you there!

Sawgrass Players Club Association Board of Directors 2021

President
TJ Welsh ..... tjwelsh@att.net

Vice President
Marc Stearns ..... mstearns2@bellsouth.net

Treasurer
Maurice Dettmer..... mldett@juno.com

Secretary
Barbara Prochaska .....
barb.prochaska@OakbridgePVB.com

Director
John Flynn ..... johndflynnjr@comcast.net

Director
Adam Guillette.. adamguillette@gmail.com

Director
William Haley..... williamhaley123@gmail.com

Director
Gerry Klingman ..... gjk55@aol.com

Director
Derek Sprague.....
dereksprague@pgatourtpc.com

President's Comments cont. from pg. 1

new fee on new residents of Vicar's Landing within our gates. The reason is that Vicar's Landing residents are basically renters of their residences (they do not go to a real estate closing and they don't possess a deed for their homes). The residents of Vicar's do not pay HOA fees; the Vicar's company pays one lump sum to our HOA. Our HOA is unique in that we have commercial businesses within our community that offset our homeowners' HOA fees. These commercial businesses like Vicar's, PGA Tour, and the Marriott contribute more than $800,000 annually to our community with Vicar's contributing more than $400,000 per year — which is the highest of our commercial entities. If we as an HOA did not have these commercial fees, each homeowner would be paying more than $500 additional per year. Additionally, TPC Sawgrass pays for half of all the maintenance and reserve items that directly affect the golf course. When the homeowner dues are raised, all the commercial entities also receive an increase as well.

Other residents have voiced concerns that this fee structure will negatively affect our ability to sell our homes. I want to remind everyone that these types of fees are customary in many HOAs and master planned developments to help offset increased fees to homeowners for capital maintenance and improvements. In fact, many of our neighboring communities already have these fees in place (Atlantic Beach Country Club, Jacksonville Golf & Country Club, Queen's Harbor, and Nocatee to mention just a few). Other communities such as Marsh Landing Country Club and Sawgrass Country Club have expressed interest in adding these fees to their home sales. Rest assured these fees will be used for capital assets only. Flowers, salaries, tree trimming and removal costs and contracts will all still be managed by your board and Marsh Landing Management staff with our annual fees. The capital asset fees will help ensure that we have sufficient funds to offset our homeowners from rising and unforeseen costs, inflation, and the ability to add new capital assets that our homeowners identify as priorities. By adding this small fee onto the sale of all new home sales, we are merely asking new residents to "buy into" our community with this one-time fee to contribute to our capital infrastructure that all of you have been supporting annually for years.

Many of our residents are opting to invest in major renovations on their homes within Sawgrass. I urge all residents to work with their local ARB (Architectural Review Board) to make the approval process easier. Ask questions beforehand if you are unsure of your local ARB guidelines. Even long-time residents are not aware of all the guidelines unless they were the original owner of your home. I would also urge residents to take advantage of the online construction documents that will ensure a safe and successful project. Take advantage of the wealth of experience that is available from local and Master Board members with construction experience. Also, talk to your neighbors about their experiences with local contractors, and finally check out your contractors licensing and credentials online (www.myfloridalicense.com) prior to beginning any project. These guidelines are in place to ensure the value of your homes remain high and our community overall remains attractive to new residents.

To all the new homeowners who have moved in recently, I extend a heartfelt welcome to you and your entire family. You have made a wise choice in joining us here at the Sawgrass Players Club. Please feel free to contact any of your local subassociation HOAs or anyone on the Master Board HOA to answer any questions you may have in your new community.

Be safe and have a happy-healthy 2022!

Storm water updates

By Marc Stearns
OMW Committee Member

The Operations, Maintenance and Waterways (OMW) Committee has been working on several fronts to improve our ability to manage stormwater and reduce the likelihood of flooding in our community. Our primary focus continues to be to improve the reliability of our pumping system and the water flow to our pumps. We also have an engineering study that is in process to assess whether we can benefit from larger pumps at the Seven Mile Drive (SMD) pumping station.

As previously reported, we replaced an old technology diesel engine at the SMD pump station with a new Tier 3 John Deere diesel engine. We are now in the process of taking quotes to purchase a replacement new diesel engine at the Salt Creek pump station. We are doing an analysis with the vendor to properly size the engine for the different loads it will be exposed to. We intend to order this engine shortly, in hopes that it can be installed and broken in prior to the next hurricane season.

We just completed the bidding process and have placed an order for a 300 KW diesel generator set for the Salt Creek pump station. This "gen-set" will function similarly to the diesel gen-set at SMD; it will provide back-up power when the Beaches Energy supplied power is cut off in a major storm event. This will allow us to continue to run our electric driven main pump and jockey pump. The other main pump at Salt Creek will be powered by a diesel engine at a lower pumping rpm, so that we stay within our permit allowed pumping rates.

We continue to monitor our lakes and channels leading to our pump stations for obstructions that might impede water flow to our pumps during rain events. We have just met with a contractor to get a proposal to clean the discharge canal from the Salt Creek pump station to Roscoe Road. We want to make sure that our discharge water will flow properly at low tides. There is a lot of overhanging vegetation that continues to drop debris into the canal. The contractor will be taking soundings of this entire stretch of discharge canal and will base his canal clearing proposal on these findings.

Members of the OMW Committee have also been involved with meetings and discussions about how the new lake at the Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge development will affect our lakes and pumping system. We have an understanding with them that, in the event of a predicted large storm, we will be able to draw down the new lake by approximately 24 inches. This will be done at the same time we do the draw down to our lake system in advance of the storm. The weir structure at the new lake is being designed to allow this drawdown. These drawdowns are a very important component of our stormwater management. With them, we can provide significantly increased water capacity for the rain event by drawing down the entire lake system in advance of each significant predicted rain event.

Finally, we are taking quotes to replace severely corroded bolts in our trash rack support wooden pier structures. We will also be applying an epoxy-based coating to the tops of the wooden piling to prevent further wood rot and insect damage to the piles.

RFID shortage impacting available inventory

By Derek Sprague
Sawgrass Players Club Master Board Member

As you have seen and heard on the national news, the supply chain in several industries is being impacted. The RFID transponders we use for our gates are one of those industries impacted due to the global shortage of computer chips. Our RFID provider has informed us our next order may not arrive until sometime in the middle of the first quarter of 2022.

As a result of this delay, the Controlled Access Committee authorized a second larger RFID order to hopefully minimize future delays in 2022, and the committee is prioritizing RFID distribution to you, our residents, first and then to The Yards, TPC, and Vicar's Landing for their employees/ members. During this time, the committee has asked Marsh Landing Management staff to withhold selling RFIDs to vendors and guests to save our inventory on hand for residents.

We encourage you to sign up for gate access for your guests and visitors to avoid gate delays and remind your vendors to use A1A to avoid back up traffic along Solana.

We appreciate everyone's understanding and patience as we navigate this situation. We will update you with any future developments.

Does Sawgrass have a speeding problem?

By Adam Guillette
Sawgrass Players Club Master Board Member

As a member of the Controlled Access Committee I've heard the same remark for several years now: "We've got cars speeding in Sawgrass!" And after a bit of research I have concluded that we do have some people who speed in Sawgrass, and that's ok.

Allow me to explain. Cities, states, and the federal government set speed limits based on the "85th percentile speed." Technically speaking, the 85th percentile speed refers to "the speed that 85 percent of drivers will drive at or below under free-flowing conditions." Alternatively, if a speed limit is set too artificially low, some drivers will inevitably ignore it and drive significantly faster than the posted limit. It sounds counterintuitive, but the uniformity of vehicle speed associated with the 85th percentile speed reduces the risks for vehicle collisions.

Despite this, some residents have advocated for speed bumps; however, speed bumps have grown out of favor in recent years. In fact, many cities in Florida have banned them entirely. Speed bumps damage cars, they damage lawns (when irrational motorists drive around them), they're loud, and they can literally kill people. This happens because speed bumps delay emergency services, including fire trucks and ambulances. One study showed that you were far more likely to die from having a speed bump delay emergency services than you were to have your life saved by a speed bump slowing down a speeding motorist.

Other residents have requested us to bring SJSO officers back into our community. This is a problem for a variety of reasons. Most notably, if we enter into a traffic enforcement agreement with SJSO, our residents would receive tickets for driving their golf carts on TPC Boulevard. Personally, I can think of much better uses for our brave law enforcement officers than ticketing Sawgrass residents for driving golf carts.

Understandably though, Sawgrass residents don't enjoy it when a vehicle appears to be flying by their home at an exceptionally high rate of speed. Sadly, none of us on the Controlled Access Committee were born with speedometers in our eyes, so we asked our friends at First Coast Security to record some data for us so that we might find out how significant the problem truly was. After a week of testing in The Coves, we found that the 85th percentile speed of all vehicles was consistently at or near 25 mph. That was the posted speed limit. Salt Creek and Alta Mar had 85th percentile speeds that exceeded the posted speed limit, but only slightly. Nevertheless, we took action.

Sawgrass Players Club has a number of methods to monitor and control traffic and none are more effective than our speed cart. The speed cart tells drivers the exact speed at which they're driving. I'm sure you've seen them throughout the community as we've purchased new ones in recent years. Our data has consistently shown us that when the carts are out, the cars slow down. In addition, we also have the Traffic Hawk. Traffic Hawk cameras identify and ticket motorists who are exceeding the speed limit.

After placing the new speed carts and Traffic Hawk in strategic places, we've seen 85th percentile speeds drop to the ideal levels. Of course, the most important statistic is safety. To that end, the Controlled Access Committee will continue to monitor speeding and take any appropriate actions in 2022.

Call for Candidates!

Three seats are set to expire during the annual meeting scheduled for the second quarter this year. The Association can accept candidates from Class C members, Lake Side, Cypress Creek, Turtleback Crossing, Bermuda Court, Oakbridge, Cypress Bridge, North Cove, Waters Edge, or Sawgrass Island.
If interested please reach out to Kristy Richland, KRichland@marshlanding.org.

Rhino Shield®
It's Not Paint.

2019 Rhino Shield DEALER AWARD Dealer Owner of the Year
2018 Rhino Shield DEALER AWARD Dealer Owner of the Year

As seen in TheHomeMag

PRESENTING RHINO SHIELD® - AN EXCLUSIVE CERAMIC COATING SYSTEM WITH UNIQUE ADVANTAGES THAT NO OTHER PAINT OR COATING COULD OFFER TODAY.

DON'T PAINT, DON'T VINYL... GO RHINO!

- Made in Florida for Florida - Guaranteed not to chip, crack or peel
- Waterproofs stucco, wood, block, cocquina and hardi-board
- 3-Coat system infused with 3M Ceramics guaranteed for 25 years
- Lowers your energy bills
- Tested and verified by BASF
- Superior alternative to paint and vinyl siding

...as seen on HGTV HGTV.com

BASF The Chemical Company

ENERGY STAR

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

MasterCard VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

CALL TODAY! 904.519.5055 • WWW.RHINOSHIELDJAX.COM

8917 Western Way, Suite 5 • Jacksonville, FL 32256

OMW Committee Report

By John Flynn
OMW Chair and Sawgrass Players Club Master Board Member

As chairman of the Operations, Maintenance & Waterways (OMW) Committee, I first want to acknowledge the superb contributions to our mission by our members: Carl Crist, Mike Fitzgerald, Paul Rushton, Marc Stearns, TJ Welsh, Mike Miles (The Yards), Josh White (PGA), and Tripp and Kristy Richland (Marsh Landing Management). They are professionals from diverse disciplines who dedicate untold hours to protect our homes and golf courses and maintain our pumps, roads, roadways, sidewalks, and ponds.

Listed below is an update on some of our activities of late:

- Paving: In the first quarter of 2022 we will be paving Alta Mar from TPC Boulevard to Palmera as well as the stretch of Salt Creek Drive from Alta Mar to the Salt Creek Bridge and the Players Park parking lot. The areas disturbed will be restriped including the cross walks, rumble strips and stop bars. Additionally, the existing striping on remaining roadways will be refreshed in the first half of 2022.
- After our 2022 pond evaluation study to determine which ponds will benefit most from aeration, we will continue expanding our pond aeration program. Improving the oxygen content in our ponds is essential for their revitalization and continued good health.
- We have recently completed drainage projects along TPC Boulevard at Water Oak and between Players Club Villas and the entrance to Vicar's Landing. Proper drainage facilitates maintenance, thereby improving the aesthetics of our community.
- Clear Waters has just stocked 400 carp ranging in size from nine to 14 inches in 12 different ponds. These fish are an integral part of our program to control eelgrass.
- The committee approved the replacement of the five wooden walking bridges on TPC Boulevard. In addition to a new architectural look, they will be constructed of Trex material to increase longevity. Work should commence sometime in the first quarter of 2022.

Lastly, please remember that all communities of our size and age continually face maintenance and improvement challenges. To get a better understanding of these issues, it is important that you read the article in this edition by Marc Stearns about our pump stations and storm water damage prevention efforts.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Kristy Richland (krichland@marshlanding.org), who will then forward them to the appropriate member of the board or one of its serving committee members.

Sawgrass Players Club prepares for paving project

By Tripp Richland
Marsh Landing Management Company, Director of Operations

The Operations Maintenance and Waterway Committee, under the direction of the Sawgrass Players Club Master Association, will be performing paving projects in the first quarter of 2022.

As part of the Master Association duties, the association performs a community review to keep the assets funded. This review is called the Reserve study. The study analyzes the community assets to ensure that the community is saving appropriately with the current costs of labor and material.

The reserve funded paving project this year will include the total length of Alta Mar from TPC Boulevard to Palmera, as well as the stretch of Salt Creek Drive from Alta Mar to the Salt Creek Bridge, the Salt Creek pump station, and the Players Park parking lot. The areas disturbed will be restriped, to include the cross walks, rumble strips and stop bars. Additionally, the existing striping will be refreshed prior to the 2022 PLAYERS Championship. 2201F

2022 budget and dues increase

At the October board meeting, the Master Board approved the 2022 Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. A notice of the updated budget was mailed out in November and the semi-annual assessment increased from $683.50 to $751.

If you did not receive a statement, please email krichland@marshlanding.org so an electronic statement can be provided.

As a reminder, all payments must be received by Jan. 31. Owners wishing to view a budget and details on proposed increases can visit www.sawgrassplayersclub.org and click on "Budgets and Reserves" on the left side of the resident menu.

Inflation's effect on our budget

By Maurice Dettmer
Treasurer

According to news sources and financial experts, inflation has reared its ugly head and is adversely affecting our economic growth. While that may be the big picture, it also has an effect on the smaller financial operations such as our homeowners association. Your board of directors is well aware of this and would like our residents to know where we stand.

In 2021, our financial situation operated well and produced numerous improvements to our community. We even generated a small surplus that will be placed in our contingency account and stormwater reserve account. We conducted a complete review of our reserve accounts and increased most of them by about 10 percent; our reserve accounts cover the next 30 years and are well-funded and monitored annually.

However, if the cost of materials and labor increase substantially, how can we react? In the next several years, two revenue enhancements will appear. One is the TPC increasing its size and the other is the opening of the new Vicar's Landing facility. We receive revenue from both of these operations based on square footage. Both of these operations are financially strong and even allowing for delays, are expected to be completed close to the projected time frames.

We have already encountered price increases and project delays due to shortages, which is why we raised the annual assessments and the reserve funding. The problem on the horizon is not necessarily reserves, but the increase in labor costs. We indirectly employ through contractors our security, landscaping, and management staff. Our analysis of contract renewal dates and expected inflationary cost of living raises shows that it could cost us upwards of $100,000. These contracts expire prior to the projected revenue additions.

We have the ability to use funds from our contingency reserve account (current balance $137,000) or temporarily reduce other projects or expenditures. This year our ACC and RFID income sources increased significantly due to numerous home improvements and vehicle changes. These are not expected to change next year. We are in the process of attempting to generate additional capital funding through a one-time assessment of property purchasers equal to 150 percent of our annual assessment. This would be about $2200 per transaction and the funds would be used only for capital improvement projects. This fee would be shared with the sub associations and based on this year would generate about $200,000 per year. This would greatly assist us in the future and would be a way that new residents could contribute to the infrastructure enhancements already in place that helped them decide to join our community.

In summary, we will be monitoring and altering our expenditures in the forthcoming year, while still seeking to provide the best lifestyle possible in order to maintain our standard of living and resident valuations. We will be generating a line of credit to facilitate additional funding without requiring any special homeowner assessments. We do not know the extent that the inflationary spiral will affect us, but in the event that it is significant we will utilize all options to minimize its impact on our community.

Have You Signed Up on the Website?

If you have not received email communications on behalf of the Master Board recently, you may not be signed up for the Players Club website. We encourage you to visit the Players Club website at www.sawgrassplayersclub.org and make sure your username and login are active. If they are not, simply click on the resident/login option at the top of the screen and follow the instructions to register. All association information is posted on the website and critical emails such as gate closures are sent to those residents registered.

Flick in the Field enjoyed by many!

On the evening of Oct. 23 at Players Park, our engines were revved and we were off and running with the Recreation Committee's annual fall event, Flick in the Field. More than 125 attended the feature presentation of Disney Pixar's "Cars 3."

Many arrived early to take advantage of a photo op with cutouts of our favorite characters Lighting McQueen and Mater.

The food truck, Ma and Pa's Bistro, served up delicious meals and snacks. The complimentary bags of popcorn went fast as we all settled in to enjoy a roaring good time with our favorite Cars characters.

The stage is (will be) set for 2022!

By Pat Gilberto

As many of you have already become aware, the plan for improvements to Players Park in 2022 includes constructing a permanent stage on the area that housed the unused infield for softball/baseball. The new venue will provide opportunities for concerts, plays, band competitions, and a variety of other entertainments targeted at residents of all ages.

The stage, still in the design phase, will be approximately 20 feet by 30 feet in area and will be raised one to two feet off the ground. Plans also include a canopy over the area in the form of a shade sail that will be approximately 12 feet to 15 feet above ground.

Since it began offering early evening events (Flick in the Field and adult music entertainment), your Recreation Committee has been mindful of the evening curfew at Players Park and there is every intention of maintaining that curfew for all events and activities in the future. Nine o'clock p.m. has been, and will continue to be, the latest time that evening events are scheduled to end.

Save the Date!

The Recreation Committee's next Adult Event
Mark your calendar for Friday, March 18, 2022
Our music choice this time is Country
Stay tuned for more info to come!

Recreation Committee adds new member

By Kelsey Behnam

Sawgrass Players Club's Recreational Committee is excited to announce its newest member, Doug Barden. Debbie McWade has become the new recreation chair to replace Pat Gilberto.

The team now consists of Debbie McWade, Pat Gilberto, Doug Barden, Irene Lombardo, Maury Dettmer, and Dawn Sanchez. The committee receives event support from Mike Miles with The Yards.

Vicar's Landing cont. from pg. 1

facility to replace and strengthen the old pond structure.

At the neighborhood Town Hall meetings five years ago, there was considerable discussion about what the water retention facility would look like and how it would operate; the goal was to create both a structurally sound and aesthetically pleasing solution. Specifically, there was a great deal of focus and discussion at that time about Parcel C and the creation of either a lake or green space to supplant the old 16th fairway nestled inside the Cypress Creek, Oakbridge and Water Oak neighborhoods.

New engineering standards introduced subsequent to the Town Hall meetings, which have created controversy with some property owners, concern a change in permitting rules enforced by St. Johns County on the construction of new water retention facilities. Most Sawgrass Players Club Association ponds date back many years when the standard of protection was modeled on 25-year storm projections. Given the severity of recent storms, St. Johns County is now requiring an increased level of protection against storm threats with modeling projections that match stricter 100-year standards. Sawgrass Players Club Association's Operations, Maintenance and Waterways Committee (OMW), in conjunction with the Transition Committee, has decided to embrace the higher standard as a means of increasing flood protection for the entire neighborhood.

The new "lake," which was completed in November, is a six-acre water retention facility that increases the amount of surface area capable of capturing water flow during both normal and abnormal weather conditions. The new facility will be linked to the overall lagoon network through the construction of a new weir that will flow into the Water Oak lagoon. As a safety measure, OMW mandated that it have the ability to control water levels in the new water retention facility the same way that it controls the overall lagoon system. This enhancement allows it to pump large quantities of water into the Intracoastal Waterway in advance of a storm and provides a superior level of protection to the old fairways which would saturate quickly and then leach water into low-lying property areas.

Lake construction took longer than anticipated due to higher than normal summer rains and disrupted surrounding neighborhoods over a period of approximately eight months. Now that the excavation work is done, water levels in the facility are expected to rise and the sodding on the banks will hopefully begin to take, creating a more attractive vista. Berms surrounding the water facility are higher by statute than originally contemplated, but the waterway complies with new permitting standards and provides greater neighborhood protection against flood risk. The lake will be fully aerated to create a healthy water environment and screen fencing will be taken down in January. Clean-up and normal maintenance schedules will begin shortly thereafter.

Close up of Parcel C Lake, St. Johns County lift station and new construction of a cottage on Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge campus.

Photos courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

Relationship and proximity of clubhouse, cottages and Parcel C.

Parcel C Lift Station Site

Parcel C is a two-pronged site, which includes on one side the new six-acre water retention facility and on the Caballos del Mar side a soon-to-be finished green space that will include seeded Bermuda grass paid for by Vicar's Landing and a new irrigation system provided by Alta Mar Holdings.

Subsequent to the Town Hall meetings, this piece of the development plan was changed and somewhat complicated by the construction of a new lift station independently mandated by St. Johns County to replace an aged system that needed to be decommissioned.

The new lift station has been recently completed by St. Johns County and will soon be brought on line with a new force main system that will run along the southern border of the Vicar's Landing development out to A1A. The county has worked closely with the Transition Committee and also with a committee of concerned neighbors who live adjacent to the lift station site. What was agreed upon was a new berm, which has now been constructed, and a landscaping plan to shield neighbors from direct views of the lift station. County landscaping, which should be completed by mid-February, will be coordinated with the overall landscaping plan developed for Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge. When fully germinated, it is expected to provide 80 percent opacity by year two. The county is also responsible for re-grading that section of Parcel C, which it will do in concert with The Yards golf course management that will maintain the property on an ongoing basis. MacCurrach Golf Construction has been contracted to install the irrigation system, which should be completed in March.

Maintenance access to the lift station has been granted by Vicar's Landing through its property so that trucks will not have to access through Caballos del Mar. Vicar's Landing will also construct a second berm with landscaping behind the lift station as per the Development Agreement between Sawgrass Players Club Association and Alta Mar Holdings to further shield residents from the cottages being built on Parcel A-1.

Parcel D adjacent to Bridgewater Island

Parcel D in the original development plan was designed as a buffer zone to shield Bridgewater Island residents from direct views of the cottages being built on Parcel A-1 and the clubhouse being constructed on Parcel A-2. Key to the design was a series of berms that were to be built along the water channel that runs around Bridgewater Island. There have been some alterations that have occurred during the construction period that were not contemplated in the original Development Agreement, including the movement of the berms to a new locale closer to the cottages. The Transition Committee, in conjunction with project management, has stayed in communication with Bridgewater Island residents to explain the alterations and to ensure that the spirit of the original design is being observed. New berms are to be constructed in two locations along with a landscaping plan designed to provide 80 percent opacity by year two.

Arbor Garden in Players Park is growing!

Photos courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

New legacy trees being planted in the Arbor Garden at Players Park.

Eelgrass and algae reminders from OMW Committee

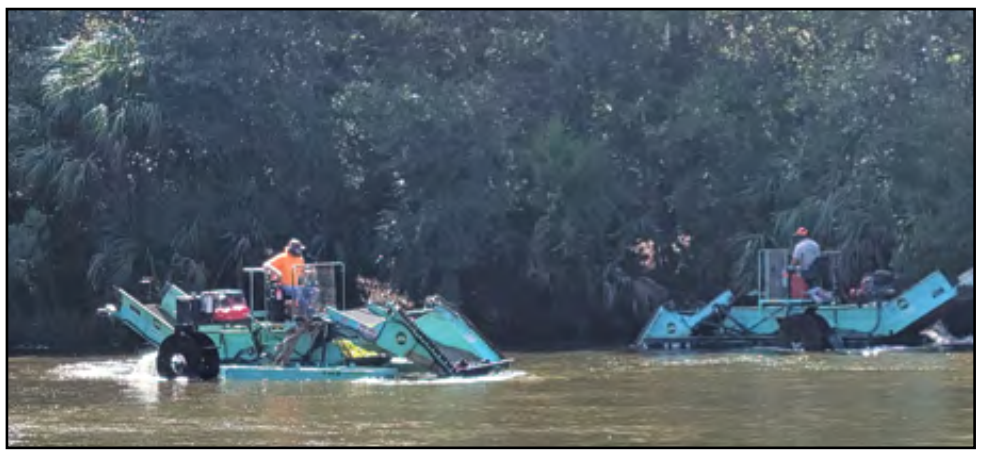

Photo courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

Vendor Future Horizons as they finished up their cleaning of the eel grass in North Cove and in the lake adjacent to the 17 Valley Green. Marsh Landing Management Company staff Alex Orth and Matt Coffelt supported the efforts by moving the material up the slope from where the harvesters put it.

Many residents experienced expanding waterway plant growth, including eelgrass and pond algae.

Eelgrass is a recently arrived plant that lives in shallow waters. While dormant during winter, eelgrass grows profusely during hot weather. This plant, also known as Vallisneria, is beneficial to water quality and lake slope stabilization; however, it is not desirable when it forms mats on the surface.

Algae blooms can occur at any time during warm weather, triggered by discharge of effluent water, a major fertilization event or by a series of sunny, hot days.

It is important as a community to recognize and understand that eelgrass and algae are natural occurrences. Our goal is to not to eradicate plant growth, but control it.

Homeowners can help prevent and control algae blooms by adhering to the following guidelines:

- Do not apply pesticides on pond banks. Consider slope angles and apply so that fertilizer and pesticides do not fall into waterways.
- Do not over-fertilize lawns or apply fertilizer on rainy days or when sprinklers are on.
- Do not discard grass clippings or yard waste in ponds or ditches. Some lawn mowers have open chutes that discharge cuttings into ponds. Reversing their direction will address this situation.
- Pay attention when using weed eaters around pond edges. If the operator is facing the wrong direction, the cuttings are thrown into the pond. Simply reverse direction.
- Trim tree branches that hang over the waterways from your property.

Spring landscaping tips

By Trey Lineberger
Precision Turf

Spring is almost here! It's time to get your landscape prepped and ready for a successful 2022. The community has graciously asked me to provide some suggestions of things you can do in your own landscape at home to bring out the best.

There are some projects you may want to consider doing first, including cleaning out wood lines, vine removal, removing low tree limbs, and tree work. These heavy lifting projects will help get sunlight through trees or down wood lines so the grass gets as much sun as possible to grow.

Next consider taking a close look at the hedges around the house. If they are getting too tall, covering up a window, or are starting to look thin and leggy, this is a great time to do a hard cut on your hedges. Many times, just removing the top layer of growth and opening the middle of the plant to sunlight will help the plant fill out and thicken up. The same cutbacks can be done to your roses and perennials after the last freeze.

Now is a good time to see how your irrigation system is working in case anything needs to be repaired underground. Flip on your system and go through each zone. If something doesn't come on, the rotors won't turn, or there is just a little stream coming out, then you know you have a problem. Once repairs are completed, set your system to run two days per week.

By this time hopefully the oak trees have finished dropping their leaves; grab a rake and clean out all the beds around the house and trees. Once the bed is clean, find a pre-emergent herbicide to apply or spread. After this application, put down a granular fertilizer specifically for shrubs. A balanced diet (such as a 10-10-10) can be good for the plants. If you have special plants like azaleas, camellias, or gardenias, there is a special blend of fertilizer for them too.

One last note is a sincere "Thank You" to the The Players Club community for all your support of Precision Turf. We love working for this community and truly appreciate your business.

K&D ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.

"Professional Quality at the Best Price"

Family Owned and Operated Since 1997

Call Today For A Free Reroof or Repair Estimate!
904-223-6068

- Insurance Claims
- Roofing
- Roof Repairs
- Roof Maintenance
- Painting
- Chimney Repairs
- Chimney Cap Replacement
- Leak Detection Specialist
- FREE Reroof/Repair estimate

74 6th Street South, Suite 104 • Jacksonville Beach
904.223.6068
KandDRoofing.com
CCC1325852 | CBC1258249

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS
GAF MasterElite ROOFING CONTRACTOR
CERTIFIED 2019
Angie's List SUPER SERVICE AWARD 2020

Neighborhood News

Cypress Bridge holds luau

By Marlene Eckert
Cypress Bridge homeowner

The Cypress Bridge Homeowners Association sponsored a luau for the neighborhood on Sunday, Oct. 24.

Photo courtesy Marlene Eckert

Board members Jeff Rossi, Sande Doolittle and Lowell Wood.

It had been postponed once this summer due to COVID, but was rescheduled (explains the luau theme in the fall.) Many of our fabulous neighbors participated wearing luau themed clothing and bringing lots of desserts and appetizers.

Little Library open in Oakbridge

By Nancy Gormley

Oakbridge now has its own little lending library located in the master association park at Palmera and Alta Mar drives.

For those not familiar with a lending library, it is a free book-sharing box where anyone may take a book or share a book. It functions on the honor system. You do not need to share a book in order to take one. But if you do take a book or two from the little library, why not share one of your favorite books with the community? Both adult and children's books are available.

Our Community Liaison Committee implemented a plan to have the library house built to withstand storms and weather, which was approved by the Master Architectural Control Committee.

Special thanks to Oakbridge residents Steve Lynch, who built the library house, and to Ray Benson, who made the signs.

We hope you enjoy the little lending library.

Photo courtesy Nancy Gormley

Sawgrass Players Club Women's Association

By Susan Winkler

"It's not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves…"~Shakespeare.

As we welcome 2022, Sawgrass Players Club Women's Association (SPCWA) proudly reflects on community contributions and membership growth in 2021. Not only have we purchased a double-station rowing machine for Players Park, but we have also donated another permanent bench for the path along TPC Boulevard. Additionally, the Managing Committee has added three positions to encourage new ideas and input: Vice Chairman and two Members-at-Large. Monthly issues of our newsletter, "Connect!," which is emailed to members, includes Activity Coordinators as well as a calendar of events. The newsletter may also be viewed on the Sawgrass Players Club Homeowners Association website.

A variety of special events offered in 2021 included a Cumberland Island cruise, and most recently, a "Nights of Lights" cruise to St. Augustine. The annual meeting and holiday luncheon at Marsh Landing Country Club featured guests of honor from the Marines and donations of hundreds of items for Toys for Tots. The Bridges of Harmony singers provided spirited entertainment for the holidays.

Photo courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Women's Association

The SPCWA's annual meeting and holiday luncheon at Marsh Landing Country Club featured guests of honor from the Marines and donations of hundreds of items for Toys for Tots.

Throughout the year, members enjoyed activities such as Bunco, in addition to five book clubs, Mah Jongg, Bridge, Canasta, Scrabble, Trivia, Ladies Lunch Out, Ladies Night Out and Mix and Mingle. Several events throughout the year include spouses/significant others, such as cocktail parties, cruises, Mix and Mingle, and additional special events planned by Activity Chairpersons. Can you imagine staying active and forging new friendships throughout the year? Suggestions for new activities are always welcomed.

Currently, our membership numbers stand at 168 and counting … publicity and word of mouth certainly works. One new member joined after seeing an engraved bench donated by our organization, while others received brochures placed in mailboxes earlier this year. Membership is open to all women residing in TPC. If you are interested in joining, please contact Carol Zehil, Membership Chairman, at carolannzehil@gmail.com. Membership dues for 2022 are just $30 and can be mailed to PO Box 795, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004.

Meet our SPCWA Managing Committee for 2022:

- Chairman: Ann George
- Vice Chairman: Susan Winkler
- Secretary: Chrissy Bennett
- Treasurer: Jan Horne
- Membership: Carol Zehil
- Activities: Susan Winkler
- Publicity: Barb Prochaska
- Member-at-Large: Courtney Lanza
- Member-at-Large: Marcy Fiacco

We invite you to join Sawgrass Players Club Women's Association to meet new neighbors and enjoy camaraderie, fun and friendship. We're looking forward to a great 2022!

Trash, yard waste and recycling services: What's going on?

By Kristy Richland

St. Johns County contracts with Republic Services to provide trash, yard, and recycling services to all homes within northern St. Johns County. As of November 2021, Republic Services confirmed that staffing delays impacting delivery schedules had been rectified and all owners should expect regular pick up for the 2022 year. As a reminder please:

- Place all household garbage into trash cans or plastic trash bags and secure them properly to prevent scattering by animals or wind.
- Place cans/bags curbside within three to five feet from the roadway.
- Loose (unbagged) garbage will not be collected in a garbage receptacle larger than 32 gallons (excluding large item pick-up).
- No can or bag may exceed 50 lbs.
- Place recyclable materials loose (unbagged) in your recycling carts provided by your service provider and place the cart no more than three feet from the curb.
- Yard waste (leaves, grass clippings, twigs and small pieces of yard debris) should be bagged, bundled, tied, or in a garbage receptacle no larger than 32 gallons and 50 lbs. Branches, shrubs, and stumps less than six feet in length and lighter than 50 lbs stacked in neat piles parallel to the curb are also permitted.

Republic Services cannot remove whole trees, land clearing debris, yard waste heavier than 50 lbs. or more than six feet, unbagged or non-containerized small pieces of yard waste, fencing, landscape, timbers, garden hoses, planters and yard decorations.

For questions on pick up schedules, please contact Republic Services at (904) 825-0991.

Information provided by St. Johns County Solid Waste Division.

Update from The Yards

By Julia Cressman
Marketing Director

We have lots of new things happening at 254 Alta Mar Drive and are excited to share them with you all.

We have broken ground on our new state of the art, 12 LED lighted pickleball courts. Pickleball is a game for all to enjoy and we can't wait to release our membership applications in the near future. We are aiming to have the Grand Opening of these courts in the next few months, so keep an eye out for that announcement!

Our unique patio pavilion is up and running and ready to host some amazing events.

Residents can contact marketing@playtheyards.com to learn more.

Helpful information about phone books

By Doris Binaco

If you are one of the many owners that received the Yellow Pages and did not want to receive a copy, the Yellow Pages website offers an opt out option. You can visit www.yellowpagesoptout.com to request that phone books are not delivered to you in the future.

Join the PGA TOUR's flagship facility offering extraordinary service and award-winning dining experiences served in its magnificent Clubhouse.

Social Memberships Available
(904) 280-2412
TPC.COM/SAWGRASS

TPC SAWGRASS
HOME OF THE PLAYERS

FLEET LANDING

This isn't your average retirement community.

No, no, no. This is Fleet Landing where every occasion, accomplishment, activity, conversation and meal just feels more memorable. Why? Because here every effort is made to create an unparalleled experience for our Residents and the only corners that are cut are the ones on our perfectly manicured landscaping. **Come experience how retirement is meant to feel.**

Ask about Life Care and the peace of mind it offers now and for the future.

Call 904.822.8549 or visit FleetLanding.com.

WELL*Inspired*™ Living in Atlantic Beach, FL