Players Journal

The official newspaper of the Sawgrass Players Club Homeowners Association

www.SawgrassPlayersClub.org • VOL. 16 Issue 4 • WINTER 2024

Join the fun with SPCWA membership in the New Year!

By Marcy Fiacco

The Sawgrass Players Club Women's Association (SPCWA) began welcoming new and returning members on Jan. 1. All women who own or rent a home within Sawgrass Players Club are invited to join. The group has more than 20 interest groups, six book clubs, and special events keeping members busy each month. Members receive a monthly newsletter and calendar to keep up with all the events. This January, Book Club members will enjoy a Book Swap event at Pusser's Rum Room.

December was busy as club members enjoyed our annual Night of Lights cruise

in St. Augustine and hosted our holiday luncheon and annual meeting at Vernon's at Sawgrass Marriott. More than 48 ladies attended the luncheon, and Betty Smallridge invited two Marines to be honored guests. The Marines collected our toy donations for their Holiday Toys for Tots campaign. The donated toys stay local and help children in the greater Jacksonville area.

Also in December, the Recipe Club hosted a cookie exchange with members sharing and voting on their favorite cookies. The Walking Group welcomed Julia DeSantis as the new Walking Group coordinator and Mix N' Mingle welcomed Joann Pasquale and Marcy Fiacco as new leaders. Mix N' Mingle will be meeting every other month in 2024, starting in February. The group had great luck hosting several potluck style events last fall. As a plus-one event, many spouses and guests also joined in the fun.

All members need to complete a membership form and submit their payment of $30. Forms and credit card payments can be completed on the club's website (www.spcwa.org). To pay by cash or a check instead, send an email to Deb Collins, Membership Chair (info@spcwa.org) to request a membership form and make other arrangements.

Come connect with us, making new friends, while enjoying a wide variety of activities in the New Year!

Photos courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Women's Association

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New car? Get a new RFID!

By Kristy Richland

If you have taken advantage of year end auto sales or were lucky enough to get a new vehicle as a holiday present, then don't forget to get a new RFID!

Remember that transferring the RFID is not allowed by the rules or the manufacturer, because there is a significant risk of the gate arm malfunctioning.

It is easy to get a new RFID. Just bring your vehicle, registration and driver's license to Marsh Landing Management Company. The office is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at 4200 Marsh Landing Blvd., Suite 200, Jacksonville Beach, which is off J.T. Butler Boulevard and Marsh Landing Parkway.

RFIDs cost $25 and if you wish to use your RFID to access the Marsh Landing community via their RFID lane, there is a one-time activation fee of $15.

Finally, as an additional reminder, if you have changed your vehicle tag, please contact Pat McInerney who supports controlled access administration at PMcInerney@marshlanding.org

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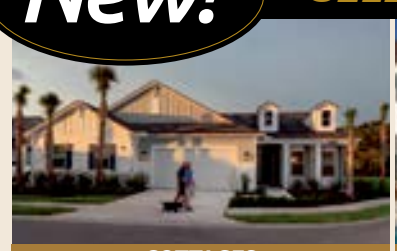
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VICAR'S LANDING AT OAK BRIDGE

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2024 budget and current cash management efforts

By Maurice Dettmer, Treasurer

The budget for next year was approved with an increase of the semi-annual assessment of $99. This resulted from increased inflationary pressure on our contract renewal rates, insurance costs, preventive maintenance efforts, and reserve funding. Total expenses are estimated to increase by more than $200,000, which was very realistically compiled. Due to the increase of harsh weather occurrences, we will be upgrading our efforts to ensure that the management of our water resources is being done in the most efficient manner and that all of our calibrations are correct. This may or may not have an adverse effect on our budget, depending on the results and needed upgrades.

An inspection of our financials would show that we currently have 16 certificates of deposit (CDs) at brokerage companies. These have a variety of maturity dates so that the liquidity is maximized and the funds could be available if needed. They are earning more than 5 percent compared to historical bank interest rates of almost nothing. This interest income will have a positive effect on our budget since the funds used are designated ($550,000) for reserve contributions as well as operating expenditures ($780,000). The CDs supplement the capital contributions and emergency contingency accounts, which both have more than $225,000 in them. Hopefully, these accounts and assets will provide positive funding for future endeavors and improvements.

Stay Informed and Get Involved!

If you have not signed up on Sawgrass Players Club website since its update in 2020, you are no longer registered.

To Register:

1. Go to www.sawgrassplayersclub.org
2. Select RESIDENT LOGIN / REGISTER
3. The Login / Register page will be displayed
4. Select the Register button
5. The Registration Form will be displayed
6. Complete the form and select Submit
7. You will be notified via the email address you provided once your registration is verified and approved. This should take two to three days.

President's Comments

By Marc Stearns, Master Board President

Many of us were able to watch some of the great golf that was played recently at the TPC Sawgrass Valley Course Q-School event. The golfers had to contend with very blustery winds and quite a bit of rain. In cooperation with the TPC operations folks, the Operations, Maintenance and Waterways Committee (OMW) and Marsh Landing Management Company operations team implemented a lakes and canals draw-down of six-inches over the whole system. We also opened the weirs at Water Oak and Cypress Bridge to facilitate the draw-down ahead of the rain. We actually ended up with more than four inches of rain that caused a one day delay in the golf activities because of the wet course conditions; however, our draw-down worked out well, helping to control peak water levels. As the rain progressed, we continued pumping again as water levels rose in the system. We also re-opened the Water Oak weir when water levels rose to above weir height again. Once the system was restored to normal water levels, the pumps automatically shut down and the Water Oak weir was closed.

We have plans for several canal cleaning projects in the new fiscal year. We plan to continue to work to improve the storm water flow efficiency of our system as we go forward. Again, we encourage our residents to point out problems that you see in our drainage system (basically storm water conveyance problems), so we can investigate them and take corrective action as needed. Residents are also reminded to keep swales open and free from obstruction and trim any vegetation away from their lake banks. The board of directors has also asked Marsh Landing Management Company to either hire or contract the required resources to increase the frequency of inspections of our sidewalk system to a monthly basis. We have found that our sidewalks continue to move with root intrusion and differential soil settlement and we want to increase the frequency of inspections and implementation of associated repairs needed. The Sawgrass Players Club Master Association has more than four miles of sidewalks that we own, so this is a significant increase of needed resources to go to monthly inspections and repairs. Again, residents, if you encounter a tripping hazard or problem with a sidewalk, please notify Marsh Landing Management.

As discussed in the last edition of "Players Journal," we did decide to increase our Master Association annual dues for residents. As previously mentioned, we had many increases in costs that we are incurring to maintain our community. The Finance Committee did a good analysis of the situation and made a recommendation for the increase to the Master Board. The board went through the analysis and approved the increase recommended by the Finance Committee.

I hope New Year proves to be a happy and healthy one for all of our Sawgrass Players Club Residents.

Sawgrass Players Club Association Board of Directors 2023 – 2024

President: Marc Stearns	**mstearns2@bellsouth.net**
Vice President: TJ Welsh	**tjwelsh@att.net**
Treasurer: Maury Dettmer	**mldett@juno.com**
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Director: Adam Guilette	**adamguilette@gmail.com**
Director: Gerry Klingman	**gjk55@aol.com**
Director: Derek Sprague	**DerekSprague@pgatourtpc.com**

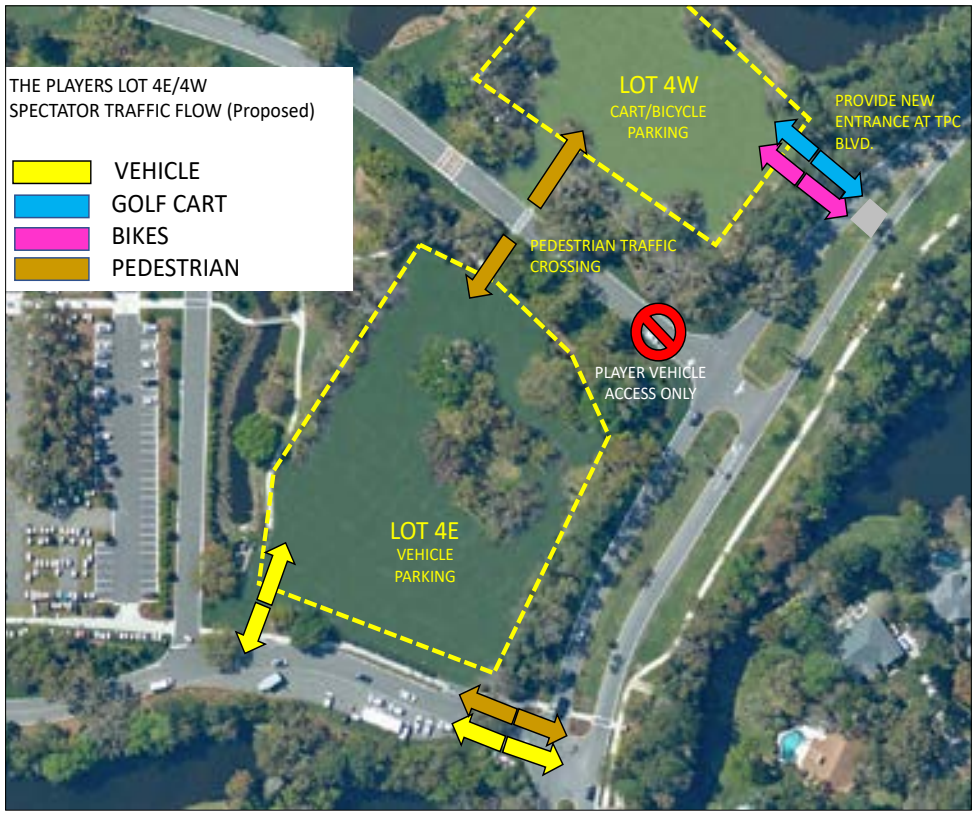
THE PLAYERS Championship is on the horizon

By Derek Sprague

Happy New Year from all of us at TPC Sawgrass and the PGA TOUR! We hope each of you enjoyed a safe and healthy holiday season and are excited for the 50th Anniversary of THE PLAYERS Championship to be played this spring.

PLAYERS Championship week will begin Saturday, March 9 and run through Sunday, March 17. Community residents will begin to see tournament parking signs along TPC Boulevard in February, and in a continued effort to manage traffic flow and parking for the nearby residents and fans alike, the PGA TOUR is offering expanded parking and entry points for THE PLAYERS. We will use the same parking for golf carts and bicycles on Championship Way where the TOUR's West Building was formerly located, as well as a new opening in the median on TPC Boulevard to allow for left hand golf cart and bicycle turns for westbound traffic (both to the right of Championship Way). This parking area worked well last year, and we are hoping for the same this year.

We thank each of you in advance for your patience and understanding, as well as your unwavering support through the years. Please be on the lookout for more PLAYERS Championship announcements and updates in the coming weeks. We look forward to welcoming the residents and fans from around the globe to the 50th Anniversary of THE PLAYERS Championship!



The PLAYERS Championship
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THE PLAYERS Championship guidelines for residents

The following guidelines are established for Tournament Week, beginning Monday March 12 to March 17, 2024.

For Sawgrass Pointe (known as Players Club West), Sawgrass Island and Seven Mile Drive:

• No exterior construction activity is allowed during the entire week.

• From Monday to Wednesday, deliveries, light interior construction, commercial service providers (including lawn and pool service) and resident guests with advance approval are permitted.

• Starting Thursday, only interior service providers (i.e. caterers, dry cleaning, pet sitters) and resident guests with advance approval are permitted.

• Make sure you email tpcsup@fcssecurity.us or call the main gate at (904) 543-0043 to place arrivals on the list for admission.

• Agronomy Parade starts daily at 4 p.m. from Tuesday – Saturday. Residents should advise guests, as traffic flow on Seven Mile Drive will be disrupted during the parade.

For all other neighborhoods in Sawgrass Players Club:

• From Monday to Wednesday neighborhoods outside of Sawgrass Pointe, Sawgrass Island and Seven Mile Drive may continue normal operations including exterior construction.

• On Thursday and Friday, only deliveries, light interior construction, non-noise producing service providers (such as pool cleaning) and resident guests are permitted. Heavy deliveries, exterior construction or gasoline powered exterior equipment including yard/lawn equipment will not be allowed through the entry gates.

• Starting on Saturday and through the end of the tournament, construction activity of any kind is not permitted.

• Make sure you notify the gate of all arrivals in advance for the week.

Mark Your Calendar!

Winterfest:

Sunday, Jan. 28, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Bring the family to Players Park!

Ways to stay informed about your community

By Adam Guillette

All of us on the Communications Committee hope that you enjoy "Players Journal." There are additional ways to receive updates from our community and we hope you'll take advantage of them:

Visit our website: If you haven't already done so, bookmark Sawgrassplayersclub.org. It has contact information for RFIDs and the Architectural Review Board as well as the latest version of our Property Owner and Resident Guide. Plus (thanks to Sawgrass residents Laura Chenore and Jon Tucker) the website features sharp new photos and an updated design.

Sign up for emails: When you register at Sawgrassplayersclub.org you'll also end up on our email list. This is especially helpful for time-sensitive updates during storm season!

Join our Facebook page: Follow "Sawgrass Players Club Homeowners" on Facebook and you'll be able to get the latest updates on everything happening in our neighborhood. This includes updates on flooding and pumps as well as all of the latest events being organized by the Recreation Committee. When you join the group you will be prompted to tell us either your address or your subassociation. We have this procedure in place to keep scammers out of the group. In addition, many members of Sawgrass Country Club try to join our page by mistake.

Master Association Committees: What are they and what do they do?

By Kristy Richland

The Sawgrass Players Club Master Association has a nine-member board of directors, consisting of volunteer homeowners who donate their time and talent for the benefit of the entire community. Board members serve three-year terms, are elected by homeowners, and represent the Master Association at large. Amongst their many duties, the board members must also serve on at least one committee as a voting member of that committee.

The following committees are comprised of at least one board member who provides monthly reports to the Board as either liaison or chair: Architectural Control, Civic Liaison, Communications, Controlled Access, Finance, Landscape, Operations Maintenance and Waterways, and Recreation. These committees make recommendations to the board to award contracts for services such as gate access and landscape. They review and approve proposals for work or improvements specific to assigned areas of responsibility, create suggested policies and procedures for board approval, work with third party vendors to support day-to-day operations, and strive to give guidance to the board in their area of expertise.

In addition, there is also a Covenant Violation Hearing committee made up of non-board members who hear appeals and vote to uphold or dismiss any fines levied by the Master Board.

Typically, committees meet once a month for a couple of hours and their meetings are attended by Marsh Landing Management Company to provide minute taking and general support. All meetings are posted on the website at www.sawgrassplayersclub.org in accordance with Florida Statutes.

Currently the Communications, Recreation, and Covenant Enforcement committees need volunteer homeowners. Please contact krichland@marshlanding.org if you are interested in joining.

Recreation Committee Page

Music Night was Marvelous!

By Debbie McWade

Friday the 13th proved to be a lucky day for music lovers who joined us at Players Park to enjoy the great musical sounds of 5 O' Clock Shadow, the Jacksonville-based band playing a variety of great music including pop, rock, and dance tunes. The music had the crowd of about 250 on their feet! Food trucks were on hand with delicious menus as well as the cash bar to accommodate the crowd. The music began at 7 p.m. and the band kept everyone entertained until 9 p.m.

Needless to say, it was a rocking good time and a great way to end our final music event of 2023 on such a high note!

Photos courtesy Debbie McWade

Fun time at Flick in the Field!

Despite the gloomy skies the show went on. Not the crowd we had hoped for, but those who attended enjoyed a Looney Tunes pre-show and our feature film, "Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile."

Everyone munched on the popcorn provided by the Rec Committee. The food trucks, Sal's Cucina and Mister Softee, provided great meals and sweet treats.

Photos courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

Mark Your Calendar!

The Recreation Committee has set this exciting events schedule for the first half of 2024:

Winterfest: Sunday, Jan. 28, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. Bring the family to Players Park!

March Music Night: Friday, March 22, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. with music beginning at 7 p.m. at Players Park.

Spring Fling: Sunday, April 14, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. Bring the family to Players Park!

May Music Night: Friday, May 3, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. with music beginning at 7 p.m. at Players Park.

Food Truck Tuesdays: First Tuesday of each month, beginning Feb. 6 at Players Pool.

Winterfest is Coming!

On Sunday, Jan. 28 from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m., Players Park is the place to be!

Bring the family and join your neighbors for an amazing, fun-filled afternoon. We'll have a challenging inflatable obstacle course, a rock climbing wall, bungee jump, a mechanical bull, and face painting along with train rides. Food trucks and a sweet treat truck will be on hand for snacks and meals — all to the fabulous sounds of DJ, Phil Hart.

Hope to see you there!

Food Truck Tuesdays will continue

The Recreation Committee had such a wonderful response for our first two food truck events, we've decided to continue with our Food Truck Tuesdays.

This fun event will occur on the first Tuesday of every month beginning in February. The first date will be Feb. 6.

We'll have three food trucks offering a delicious variety of meals along with a sweet treat truck. See you at Players Pool at the Coves from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.!

Proper disposal of bulky items

Please do not place unwanted household items, furniture, used lumber, old fencing and/or construction materials in Palmera Park located at Palmera and Alta Mar Drives.

You may think someone can use your old vacuum cleaner… but you aren't helping by cluttering up our park. And it costs association funds for someone to discard the items you left!

According to St. Johns County, you can dispose of large, bulky items by placing them at the curb next to your regular garbage. This includes items such as vacuum cleaners, couches, sectionals, mattresses and household furniture. If you have questions please contact Republic Services at (904) 825-0991.

Canal clearing continues in Sawgrass Players Club

By Tripp Richland

As you may remember in October, the Operations, Maintenance and Waterways (OMW) Committee contracted with Future Horizons, which specializes in aquatic systems that include aeration, lake treatment and canal cleanup. The canal clearing project consisted of areas around Bridgewater and Oakbridge.

These areas had the greatest need within the community. The need for canal cleaning is established by input from our current lake vendor Clear Waters, as well as observations and research by community engineers and OMW volunteers.

This year, work will continue in Oakbridge. The OMW committee budgeted to continue cleaning the canals where flow to the pumpstations is most impacted due to heavy sedimentation. As mentioned in the previous "Players Journal," these older canals have the greater need and are scheduled accordingly. As a reminder, the accumulated sediments are from bank erosion, leaf litter from overhanging trees and vegetation, and yard debris being blown into the waterways.

The work will begin in the first quarter of 2024 and will include the majority of the remaining canals within Oakbridge. The removed sediment will be side cast to the banks, seeded, and then covered with geo-fabric to help prevent the material from slipping into the canal again.

The OMW committee will continue to budget additional funds for the years to come and will be reviewing all bodies of water to make the system as efficient as possible.

Please do your part. As a member of the community, you can help by keeping your canals and lake bank clear of tree branches overhanging the water as well as making sure landscapers know not to blow their clippings into the ponds. This will not only help for the additional sediment accumulation, but also the overall health of the pond.

Please visit the Sawgrass Players Club website to review the PowerPoint presentation of the canal cleaning.

Photo courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

Operations, Maintenance and Waterways (OMW): Q&A with Paul Rushton, committee co-chair

Q: What is the stormwater system?

A: When Arvida developed the property 40 or so years ago, the land didn't have natural drainage so a pumping system would have to be installed to move the rainfall off the property. The Sawgrass Players Club water basin is about 2,900 acres. It goes from the intersection of Solano and A1A down Roscoe Boulevard to the electrical transmission corridor running south and west of the property. It includes the businesses along A1A from Solano down to the Walgreens shopping complex and the Fairfield/Azalea Point neighborhoods.

Q: What happens when it rains?

A: Rainwater that comes into our basin either soaks into the ground or must be pumped out. There is no natural drainage flow path out of the area.

Q: What are the limitations of the system?

A: Pumps can keep up with about 1/8" of rainfall per hour, so beyond that amount, whatever doesn't soak into the ground will accumulate. When water collects, it may come into yards and onto golf course property. This is all part of the plan for community protection. Eventually, the pumps will catch up and we get back to normal maintenance levels.

Q: What can I do to help?

A: There are a number of things homeowners can do:

a. Don't obstruct swales in front of your road

b. Keep storm drains clear of debris buildup

c. Keep shrubs and vegetation off the lake bank

d. Don't put lawn clippings in the pond and canal system

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Who does what and who to call

By Kristy Richland

The property management contract is managed by Marsh Landing Management Company and is overseen by the Master Board. Marsh Landing Management Company employees attend Master Board and Committee meetings and are responsible for preparing agendas and minutes and follow up on action items. They serve as a liaison with residents, Class C members, and subassociation HOA property managers, assist residents with exterior modification requests, website access, RFID installation, answer general questions, and facilitate Players Pool and Park reservations. Additionally, Marsh Landing Management Company provides routine maintenance, liaisons with contractors, and supports community projects including stormwater tasks.

The controlled access contract is managed by First Coast Security and is overseen by the Controlled Access Committee. First Coast is responsible for gate operations, documenting incidents, providing roving patrol, and making recommendations on best practices. Additionally, they issue citations for various infractions such as golf cart misuse, vandalism, Traffic Hawk violations (speeding and stop sign violations) overnight parking, and contractor violations. Gate arm incidents and other controlled access incidents may be reported directly to First Coast and can also be reported to First Coast by the property manager or Controlled Access Committee chair.

The aquatics maintenance contract is managed by Clear Waters and overseen by the Operations, Waterways and Maintenance (OMW) Committee. Clear Waters is on site weekly and treats waterways with chemicals, bio-enzyme bacteria, and grass carp.

The landscape maintenance contract is managed by Precision Turf and overseen by the Landscape Committee. Precision Turf is responsible for the landscaping improvements and routine maintenance along master common areas and its right of ways and schedules dead tree removal along master property through Tree Masters.

Below is the list of Frequently Needed Numbers:

In an Emergency	**Fire, Medical or Police**	**Dial 911**
Maintenance Emergency of Common Area	**On Call Property Manager**	**307-2759**
Maintenance Emergency within Neighborhood	**Subassociation Property Manager**	**See website**
Architectural Modifications (& Tree Removal)	Marsh Landing Management Company	273-3033
Alligator Sightings	County-Alligator Hot Line	1-866-392-4286
Masters Common Area Complaints	Marsh Landing Management Company	273-3033
Covenant Violations	Subassociation Property Manager	See website
Estate Sale and Open House	Marsh Landing Management Company	273-3033
Gatehouse	First Coast Staff-Main Gate First Coast Staff-Solana Gate	543-0043 285-5488
Guest Authorization	Recorded Number	285-4161/285-4160
Incident Reports	First Coast Services (Gate Access)	370-4875
Lakes/Ponds/Canals	Marsh Landing Management Company	273-3033
Landscape (Common Areas)	Marsh Landing Management Company	273-3033
Patrol Officer (For Incidents)	First Coast Services	370-4875
Pets off leash/loud barking	Animal Control	904-209-0746
Power Outage	Beaches Energy	247-6171
Recycling	Republic Services	825-0991
Reserve Recreational Facility	Marsh Landing Management Company	273-3033
RFIDs/Decals	Marsh Landing Management Company	373-5600
Streetlights	Beaches Energy	247-6171
Suspicious Activity	St Johns County Sherriff Office	824-8304
Trash and Yard Waste	Republic Services	825-0991
Unwanted Guest List	First Coast Services	543-0043
Vehicle Registration	Marsh Landing Management Company	373-5600
Water/Sewer	St. Johns County Utility Department	209-2728 209-2745 (afterhours)
Wildlife Issues	Fish & Wildlife Conservation	866-392-4286

Safety tips for sidewalks

By Adam Guillette

Traffic has increased in Sawgrass … not on the roads, but on the sidewalks. Between walkers, runners, bikes, and ebikes those precious inches of concrete are getting crowded. To be respectful to our neighbors, and to avoid colliding with a sweaty runner, please keep these tips in mind:

• Don't hog the sidewalk. If you're walking with a large group, keep an eye out for runners, scooters, and bicyclists.

• Latch your helmet. Many young people in Sawgrass wear helmets while e-biking, which is great! However, they're often unlatched and would be rather useless in an accident. Remind your children to latch their helmet!

• Got an e-bike? Get on the road! In Sawgrass, all vehicles capable of exceeding 15 mph are required to use the road, not the sidewalk.

• Running at night? Consider a light! I recommend the Night Runners. These lights attach to your sneakers and cost $60. They make you highly visible to motorists and also help you see the sidewalk at night.

E Bike Reminders

You've taken the plunge and are now the proud owner of a new e-bike. But do you know the laws regarding the operation and use of e-bikes here in Florida and in Sawgrass Players Club?

E-Bike use

Florida state law considers e-bikes the same as human-powered bikes (mostly). The same rules and operator obligations for riders of human-powered bikes also apply to riders of e-bikes. Keep in mind, the Players Club Property Owner and Resident Guide has additional restrictions and requires all motorized vehicles or any bicycle capable of going faster than 15 mph to travel on the roadway and not the sidewalk.

Age restrictions

Florida state law previously prohibited riders who are under the age of 16. But now in 2023, it is legal for individuals of any age to ride e-bikes on Florida roadways. However, state law does state that helmets are required for all riders younger than 16 years old.

E-Bike speed limit

Florida law states that e-bikes should not exceed 28 mph with electrical assistance, the top speed of Class 3 e-bikes. Otherwise, an e-bike goes into moped or electric motorcycle territory, which are most definitely not e-bikes under Florida law.

Best practices for draining your swimming pool

Swimming pool discharges can be a source of illicit discharges in municipal separate storm sewer systems. Chlorine and other chemicals used in maintaining pools and spas, which often include acidic or alkaline cleaning compounds, can have a negative impact on the plant and aquatic life in surface waters. Even at low levels, chlorine can be toxic to aquatic life.

To help protect Florida's environment, the following best management practices should be followed when draining swimming pools or discharging filter backwash into the environment.

• Only drain your pool when necessary. Avoid draining/backwashing your pool during periods of drought and during significant rainfall events. Do not drain your pool when watering restrictions are in place.

• Before draining your pool, allow the water to stand for at least 48 hours after the last addition of chlorine or until the free chlorine residual is ≤0.01mg/L. (If you need to drain your pool quickly, you can purchase chlorine-neutralizing chemicals such as sodium thiosulfate at your local pool supply company.)

• Test the free chlorine residual before discharging. A free chlorine residual should not be detected. The chlorine residual can be tested using a standard pool test kit.

• The water should be clear and free of solids.

• The pH must be between 6.5 and 8.5 before it is discharged.

• Algaecides containing copper or silver can interrupt algal and plant growth in surface water bodies and should be used with caution. Follow the manufacturer's instructions before discharging water that has had an algaecide added recently.

• Control the rate of discharge across your property to avoid erosion and nuisance conditions for neighboring properties. Nuisance conditions such as the creation of odors, mosquito breeding conditions or flooding can occur when water is ponded for a prolonged period.

• Direct the discharge over a vegetated surface so that some level of filtration can occur.

• Do not discharge on areas recently treated with herbicides or pesticides.

Disposal to Sanitary Sewer Systems:

• Pool and spa wastewater should not be discharged into the sanitary sewer system without the permission of the wastewater treatment facility.

• Avoid discharging to the sanitary sewer system during or immediately after a significant rainfall event.

Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Winter pond and lake update

By Joe Lawton

Winter is in the air: The cool weather is setting in and daylight hours are much shorter. Clear Waters, Inc. technicians are actively treating Vallisneria in the ponds where it is present. The plants are flowering and actively growing, so the time is right to keep the pressure on. We will continue to manage the duckweed and azolla throughout the winter season because they do not slow down their growth during the cooler months.

The Midge flies should not be present like we normally see in the warmer months. Clear Waters will apply Bio Zyme in the known areas to help break down the muck layer that larvae reside in. We cannot eradicate them, but we can help cut down on the population that will return next spring.

Clear Waters will be continuing with remedial treatments on the waterways that had the highest concentrations of algae over the summer to sequester excess nutrients from the water column.

As always, be vigilant in the management of your lawn and landscapers by asking them to direct their chutes away from the water to keep the clippings from entering the waterway. Remember, excess clippings and other organic debris add nutrients to the water column as they break down and sink to the bottom. Make sure fertilizers and pesticides are kept back from the shoreline so it does not enter the water. Any clippings or debris on driveways, sidewalks, and streets should be blown onto the lawn or swept up and discarded with landscape pick up. The common goal is when the water is discharged into the salt marsh and Intracoastal Waterway, it is as clean as possible.

Arbor Garden features Legacy Trees

By Carole McManus

Players Park was enriched with a designated area for the Sawgrass Players Club community's Arbor Garden early in 2021. The location is just beyond the volleyball court and off the perimeter footpath that circles Players Park. There are marked boulders at either end of the legacy tree area that highlight the space given to this project.

The initial planting of four legacy trees initiated this landscape enhancement on Feb. 12, 2021. Donors select the trees and sizes depending on their choice (D.D. Blanchard Magnolia, Live Oak, or Nellie Stephens Holly). Plantings are coordinated with Precision Turf and Marsh Landing Management Company, with the most recent additions being two Magnolias added in December 2023.

Currently, there are a total of 12 legacy trees that have been planted in the Arbor Garden. In May 2022, three benches were donated to the Arbor Garden by community members.

This is definitely a community project! Please visit our Arbor Garden when you are spending time at Players Club Park. For additional information on the Legacy Tree project, contact Marsh Landing Management Company at (904) 273-3033.

Neighborhood News

Flag football for a cause at Players Park

On Nov. 22, Players Park was invaded with teens in various colored shirts, playing flag football for a purpose. Jack Brady, a junior at Ponte Vedra High school who lives in Salt Creek, felt the need to act when his physics teacher Martin Hillier's niece was diagnosed with a life-threatening cancer and was being treated at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The news had been devastating and Jack wanted to help. He called on friends including Banks Vadeboncoeur and Nikki Walton to come up with ideas.

Normally classmates and friends have an annual Turkey Bowl game of flag football the day before Thanksgiving at Players Park. This year they decided to turn the game into a fundraiser for St. Jude's hospital. Each player contributed $10 as an entry fee (and some gave more). Sixteen teams consisting of six players per team — for a total of 96 teens — joined in. There was one winner: The Sharks, who received prize money of $120.

The total raised by this wonderful, thoughtful and generous gesture was $1,200!

Photos courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

Neighborhood *News*

Oakbridge Book Swap unites readers

November 11 was not only Veterans Day, it was also Book Swap day for Oakbridge residents, which was held in Palmera Park. Many enthusiastic readers showed up with their old, loved books to share and then spent time working through stacks of books to take home some new ones to enjoy. Even local kids showed up!

The readers were a fun group with many discussions about books; those read and not read yet along with recommendations. Local Oakbridge author, Vic DiGenti, was also on hand.

Any book that did not find a new home by the end of the Book Swap was boxed up by volunteers for donation. Oakbridge resident Cindy Horine delivered them to St. Vincent de Paul's Thrift store where she volunteers.

What could be better than chatting about your favorite books with other book lovers on a Saturday morning, enjoying a lemonade, brownies and chocolate chip cookies? A very pleasant time was had by all.

Photo courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

Santa visits Oakbridge

Once again (for the 45th year!) Santa made a special visit to Oakbridge on Christmas Eve. Many children and residents eagerly awaited along the streets of Oakbridge for Santa to arrive — and they weren't disappointed. More than 80 delighted children received Christmas gift bags from Santa filled with chocolate, candy, pencils, and erasers.

Santa greeted residents from his golf cart (which is his favorite mode of transportation while in Florida!) He was accompanied by a fire truck with Brian Mitzell, Battalion Chief from station 2250 Nocatee, at the helm along with three other firefighters.

Many thanks to the Oakbridge resident volunteers who made Santa's visit possible, including Mike Dambeck, Gavin and Lorelei Garrow (the elves who helped Santa hand out gift bags), Madeleine Tavares (who provided and prepared the gift bags), Patrick McKinley (who supplied Santa's Florida "sleigh") and Joe Tavares (Santa's driver, Oakbridge Community Liaison chairman and event organizer). And thank you to all the Oakbridge residents who came out to make this annual event a success.

Photos courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

North Cove neighbors celebrate

The North Cove neighborhood held its Halloween Street Party on Oct. 22. The party was a great success with around 100 attendees, and everyone seemed to have a good time. Several of the kids (and a few adults) came in their Halloween costumes to join.

Photos courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

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