Players Journal

The official newspaper of the Sawgrass Players Club Homeowners Association

www.SawgrassPlayersClub.org · VOL. 17 Issue 1 · SPRING 2024

Sawgrass Players Club Women's Association: Busy as spring bees

By Marcy Fiacco, SPCWA Publicity Chair

Sawgrass Players Club Women's Association (SPCWA) was busy recently, buzzing over to visit Cumberland Island, UNF Nature Trails, the Beaches Museum, and dining out at Valley Smoke, Oaxaca Club, and Jekyll Brewery. Members also stayed active during the colder months playing pickleball and golf at The Yards. Our busy Book Clubs (we have seven!) participated in a successful Book Swap in January. Mahjong and card groups moved inside due to The Coves Pool construction.

Our January Membership Drive was successful, and the club now boasts 211 members from within the TPC Sawgrass community. The club extends a warm welcome to Elizabeth Sides who has been appointed as the new membership chair; we thank Tammy Coe for her interim service in this vital position and for hosting the New Member Wine & Welcome.

On April 30, SPCWA will host its popular Member Appreciation Event at Valley Smoke on the Intracoastal Waterway. On May 2, Mix N' Mingle will meet at Pusser's Bar and Grille for a 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Happy Hour. Mix N 'Mingle plans to host the popular Pot Luck Mix N' Mingles at The Coves Pool in June,

Photos courtesy Marcy Fiacco

September, and October this year. Trivia Night and Mix N' Mingle are always plus one events, where members can bring a guest or spouse to join the fun. Look for details in our monthly publication "Connect!" or on www.spcwa.org. Members should reach out to the club's activity coordinators to RSVP for events they want to attend.

The club's membership includes women of all ages and is only $30 a year. Members receive a monthly newsletter and a calendar with more than 30 fun activities. Although this is a club for women, spouses or guests are welcome at many events. Membership for SPCWA is available throughout the year, with membership forms and credit card payment available at www.spcwa.org. Inquiries by email can be sent to info@SPCWA.org.

All women in Sawgrass Players Club are welcome to join, whether you own or rent a home.

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President's Comments

By Marc Stearns, Master Board President

The approach of springtime brings master board and Operations, Maintenance and Waterways (OMW) Committee discussion and preparation for the start of this year's hurricane season. There are a few reminders that I want to put forth to all Sawgrass Players Club residents. First, our storm water protection system is a St. Johns River Water Management District-permitted system for which we schedule bi-annual permit certifications. The design of our system is based on a 25-year storm event, meaning the design parameters are based on the predicted rainfall for a 25-year storm. The OMW has made significant progress in improving our aging pump stations. Pumps have been re-built, old diesel back-up engines replaced with new ones, remote control features added,

President's Comments cont. on pg. 3

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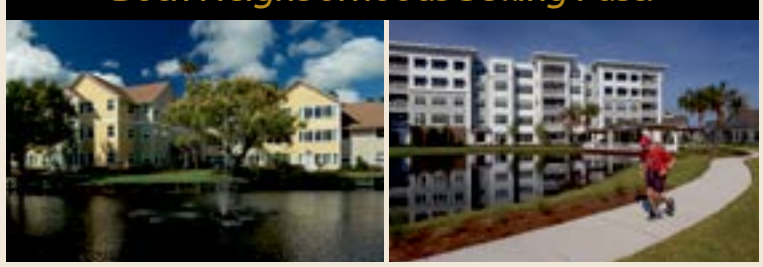

VICAR'S LANDING AT SAWGRASS

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

@TheFloridaNewsLine

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Vice President's Message

By TJ Welsh, Master Board Vice President

As I close out my fifth year on the Sawgrass Players Club Master Board, I marvel at the changes in our community from that time five years ago as well as the 34 years that my wife and I have been lucky enough to call this place home. Five years ago, we were still struggling with what would become of the Oakbridge golf course, what would we do with our rapidly aging infrastructure, and finally how would we manage our finances and continue to meet all the demands required to operate and maintain a community of more than 1,700 homes on 1,300-plus acres.

I believe most of our residents would judge the transition to The Yards and the successful development of Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge as wins for our community. The transition came with its challenges, but personally I am proud of the end result. As for the aging infrastructure, great progress has been made in overhauling and updating both the Salt Creek and Seven Mile Drive pump houses and their enclosed equipment. Thanks to a dedicated group of truly exceptional retired engineers and hard-working staff under Marsh Landing Management Company's in-house engineer Tripp Richland, I believe we are on a solid path for optimal efficiency and safety to the homeowners of our association. Oakbridge (originally known as Inlet Beach) is receiving much needed attention in the canals and drainage that ultimately convey stormwater into the pond system. Obviously, construction and engineering methods have evolved since the original construction of that sub-association. A great deal of effort and resources are being expended by the master association, Oakbridge board and homeowners alike in an effort to identify problem areas and address them accordingly.

I think the association is in a very good financial position given the diligence of our treasurer and the entire Finance Committee. Each one of us is dealing with rising costs across the board in our homes and business lives. It is even more difficult given the complexity and potential exposures we as a community face. Insurance coverage is an issue that is plaguing the State of Florida in its entirety and needs to be addressed. I urge all our homeowners to contact the governor's office (a former Players Club resident) and urge him to get busy on insurance reform and tort reform. Insurance is plagued by an army of litigious attorneys more than willing to take on the seemingly deep pockets of HOAs. I would hope that most of us realize the folly of filing a lawsuit against your fellow homeowners that if successful results in large premium increases that we must then all pay for in increased HOA dues. I would much rather see us spend that money within our gates on projects that benefit all of us instead of attorneys and insurance companies. I believe the passage of our capital expenditure fee for new residents will add to our ability to stay ahead of the age curve.

I look forward to continued service to this community and its residents in the years to come in whatever capacity is deemed appropriate. I wish all of you good health and a long happy experience within our little slice of Florida heaven. Slainte! (Gaelic for Cheers!)

President's Comments cont. from pg. 1

and ventilation improvements made to help mitigate the chance of an engine overheating; however, the facts remain that our "permitted" outflow from each of our two pump stations has not changed. The permitted flow rate out of the Seven Mile Drive pump station is 98,500 gallons per minute and the Salt Creek pump station is 79,900 gallons per minute. Our primary goal is to improve and then maintain the reliability of these pump stations with the improvements we have made. The system is more than 40 years old and these improvements have been necessary as the system has aged.

The OMW has also been implementing a storm water conveyance improvement program by targeting major canal arteries to our pumpstations for maintenance cleaning. We are trying to restore the original canal width and depth by removing organic muck (partially decomposed vegetation debris and fine-grained soil material that has run off from land). We have used various techniques to allow us to maximize the amount of cleaning we can do. Removing the materials from the community and trucking it to a disposal facility is extremely expensive and is not logistically feasible. We have been successful at moving muck material to the sides of the canal, compacting it, putting a geo-fabric over it, and finally seeding or sodding it. This efficiency has allowed us to clean many more feet of canal than otherwise would have been possible. These cleaning efforts are planned to continue this spring, with more than 5,000 feet of additional canal to be done. We have awarded a contract and will be proceeding with the next phase of canal cleaning over the next few weeks.

Another operational improvement we have made is that when we have a significant rain event predicted, we open weir gates at various locations in the community and couple that with a pumping drawdown of the water levels in the system. We do this to create additional capacity in our system for stormwater.

The fact is that a couple of recent storms have exceeded the 25-year hurricane event rainfall. We have had some localized flooding at some of the lower elevation sections of our community. The St. Johns River Water Management District has actually modified their design criteria because of these storms and now new facilities have to be designed to accommodate a 100-year storm event.

Finally, on this topic, I want to stress to all residents that we live on a barrier island and there is only so much that we can do to prevent storm water flooding, given our 25-year hurricane designed system. We will continue to work to keep it functioning as well as possible; however, a very large hurricane event that exceeds these 25-year design parameters could cause significant flooding in our community and surrounding communities.

The second topic I want to cover in this message is about electric bicycles. The community is experiencing two specific issues; the first is traffic safety related. Many of our residents have witnessed or had close calls because of e-bike riders not obeying traffic laws such as running stop signs, cutting in front of moving cars, and generally operating their e-bike without regard to the other automobile traffic on our roads. We ask that all e-bike riders obey traffic laws and be courteous to other vehicles using our roads. Parents of e-bike riders, please discuss traffic safety with your kids. Also, let them know that they cannot exceed 15 mph while riding on our sidewalks. The second issue is that the community has been experiencing harassment events with kids or groups of kids on e-bikes pounding or kicking on a resident's front door and then running off and escaping on their e-bike. We have even had one event that I know of where a house was illegally entered by a young e-bike rider. Members of the master board met with St. Johns County Sheriff's Department officers, including Sheriff Rob Hardwick, along with representatives of other surrounding communities about these e-bike issues. The Sheriff has offered to participate in a community Town Hall-type of meeting to go over e-bike safety related issues with attending residents. We have also invited them to our annual meeting in June to discuss this issue.

Looking for a few good men and women!

By Barbara Prochaska

We are seeking candidates for the Sawgrass Players Club board of directors. There will be three open positions as the result of board seats expiring this year. This is your opportunity to be involved in planning and decision making for the community!

This year's nominations can be received from residents of Bermuda Court, Cypress Bridge, Hammock Cove, Lake Side, North Cove, Players Club Villas, Salt Creek, Turtleback Crossing, Vicar's Landing, Water Oak and Water's Edge.

Board members are elected to serve a three year term. The monthly board meetings are currently held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. at Marsh Landing Management Company offices.

The deadline for interested candidates to submit their Candidate Bio Form is April 27.

Board members whose three-year terms expire are Gerry Klingman of Hammock Cove, John Flynn of Vicar's Landing and TJ Welsh of Salt Creek. Current board members whose terms continue are Maury Dettmer of Cypress Creek, Nancy Gormley of Oakbridge, Adam Guillette of Bridgewater Island, Teri Mathes of Sawgrass Island, Marc Stearns of Seven Mile Drive, and Derek Sprague, Class C Member for the PGA TOUR.

Only one homeowner from a subassociation or Class C representative may serve on the board at the same time and all board members have a fiduciary responsibility to represent the Sawgrass Players Club Association. Class C Members consist of owners of commercial property, such as the Marriott, Sawgrass Village, Sawgrass Executive Center, the PGA TOUR and TPC.

Please consider becoming a board member. No special qualifications are necessary. You just need to be a Sawgrass Players Club homeowner in good standing and at least 18 years old.

If you are interested, have any questions, or would like a Candidate Bio Form, contact property manager Kristy Richland at krichland@marshlanding.org. The form can also be found on the Sawgrass Players Club website (sawgrassplayersclub.org) by going to the Resident Home page, selecting "Forms Applications" and then "Run for the Board."

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www.sawgrassplayersclub.org

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Finance update: Stability and liquidity as we plan for future events.

By Maurice Dettmer, Treasurer

Financial stability is being sought by the Finance Committee and the master board by recently approving the transfer of our positive variance for 2023 into the emergency contingency account. Once our CPA firm approves last year's books, the favorable variance will be added to the emergency contingency and be available for reacting to unfavorable cost increases or other unexpected events, which will allow us to stave off negative events that cannot be avoided such as uncovered legal expenses, insurance rate increases, and storm damage. The emergency fund already has a balance of more than $225,000 and the goal is to increase it over time.

Financial liquidity is being maintained by the recent increase in our certificates of deposit, with all 17 CDs earning more than 5 percent interest. This $1,350,000 is spread out over the entire year with a CD maturing and the funds available almost every month. The CDs will generate almost $70,000 in interest, which has a very positive effect on our balance sheet.

We have about $180,000 in capital contributions, which can be used for purchases of new and existing assets to keep current with the desires and needs of our residents so we can maintain our lifestyle. Also, 20 percent of this fund is transferred to subassociations in a timely manner for their use in funding their reserve or making new capital improvements.

While our annual budget for expenditures tops $2.5 million on an annual basis, these specific funds and assets generate the financial flexibility needed to allow our board to make timely decisions to keep the Players Club a desirable and enjoyable place to reside.

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OMW Updates

By Tripp Richland, Marsh Landing Management Company

Canal Clearing: The Operations, Maintenance, and Waterways (OMW) Committee, at the direction of the master board, is continuing the canal clearing for the 2024 year. As noted in previous articles, the committee goes on the advice of the lake vendors, committee volunteer advice, and HOA input. The committee is continuing with Oakbridge and is completing the remaining canals not performed in 2023. The project will involve a floating excavator which will travel along the canal creating a flow path. The excess sediments will be side cast to the banks. The banks, where needed will be lined with filter fabric and seeded to slow the further future erosion. We will be working with the abovementioned groups to establish the projects for 2025 and are looking forward to continuing to improve our waterway systems.

Players Pool bulkhead: As you might have noticed, the Players Pool is going under a massive upgrade. This is a joint project between the Recreation Committee and the Operations Maintenance and Waterways (OMW) Committee. The recreation portion consisted of resurfacing the pool, new pavers, paint, Shark coating of the pavilion and restroom floors, and new water fountains. The OMW side, while not as pretty, greatly protected the upgraded pool investment. A new retaining wall was added to the lake side of the pool area to stop the erosion that was occurring. New drains were added to take the water from the pool area and direct it to the lake. We're excited to see the new pool and its protected slopes be enjoyed by all the residents.

Photo courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

New pool bulkhead.

Safety tips from First Coast Security

By Ralph Sylvester

First Coast Security wishes to remind you of the following tips:

• You can authorize guests and vendors by logging into https://tpc.gatehouseportal.com. If you need assistance with your username, password or PIN, contact Marsh Landing Management Company at (904) 373-5600. It is especially important to do this if visitors are arriving during the overnight hours.

• You may also use the automated telephone system to authorize guests and vendors by calling (904) 285-4161. If your phone number is not registered, when prompted you will need to enter your PIN.

• If you prefer to call the gate to authorize your guest or vendor, then you need to know your PIN for identification purposes.

• Please note all vendors/deliveries must use the main gate for community access.

• Cameras at gatehouses record all license plates; it is important to alert Marsh Landing Management Company if you change your tag or change your vehicle for accuracy.

• Please slow down when you approach and pass the gates; there's enough space for both guest and visitor cars.

• Remember you are responsible for the actions of other family members and guests. First Coast is authorized to ticket for parking on grass, obstructing entrances, and parking on the street between 1 a.m. – 6 a.m. First Coast uses a certified radar device (the Traffic Hawk) to issue traffic stop signs and speeding violations.

• Stay safe and wear light colored clothing at night while running and biking.

Stay Informed and Get Involved!

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.

Association's annual audited financials to be available on website

By Kristy Richland

Each year the Sawgrass Players Club Association, through its Finance Committee, engages in a contract with LBW CPAs and Associates, Inc. to conduct an annual audit of the prior year's financials. The objectives of the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report.

Services include:

• A full audit of the financial statements of the Association, including the balance sheet as of year end, and the related statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and the disclosures (collectively, the "financial statements").

• An evaluation of the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management.

• Review of the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures.

• Preparation of the Association's income tax return for the year ended.

The final audit will be posted on the Sawgrass Players Club Association website after it is approved and accepted by the Finance Committee and master board of directors. Residents must sign up on the website to review it.

WHO TO CALL

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

Committee volunteers needed!

By Kristy Richland

Did you know there are eight standing committees and one ad hoc committee made up of resident volunteers donating their time and talents for the betterment of the entire community? They are Architectural Control, Communications, Controlled Access, Covenant Enforcement, Finance, Landscape, Long Range Planning, OMW (Operations, Maintenance and Waterways), and Recreation.

Marsh Landing Management Company personnel support the committees in various ways, such as: posting meeting information to the website, preparing agendas and minutes for the committees, obtaining proposals, providing financial reports, and following through on action items including responding to resident questions, coordinating with third party vendors, and drafting committee communications.

Committee meetings are usually once per month. Members recommend and create policies, plan improvements, and work with Marsh Landing Management Company to support the master board with a continued goal of keeping Sawgrass Players Club the premier community it is. Currently Communications, Covenant Enforcement and Recreation need volunteers. If you have an interest in serving your community, email krichland@marshlanding.org and nsaolmon@marshlanding.org

Be a responsible human!

Keep your pet on a leash at all times!

Sawgrass Players Club Association announces annual membership meeting

By Kristy Richland

If you want to learn more about current projects in the community as well as future plans, then mark Thursday, June 27, 2024 on your calendar. That's the date of the Sawgrass Players Club Association (SPCA) annual membership meeting at the TPC Clubhouse. Sign-in starts at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 6 p.m. There will be posted signs directing you to the meeting room.

Each SPCA Committee will provide a brief summary of current, recently completed and upcoming future activities under their purview. Attending homeowners will have an opportunity to ask questions of the board and/or committee chairmen.

Additionally, the three newly elected board members will be announced at the meeting. If you are interested in being a candidate, please see the Call for Candidates article in this issue of Players Journal on page xx for details.

A short board organizational meeting will be held directly after the annual membership meeting.

A Note from Controlled Access

By Gerry Klingman

On behalf of the Controlled Access Committee, we wanted to provide residents with a few important updates and reminders.

Recently our committee learned about an e-bike accident in South Florida causing a fatality. Please take caution when riding a bike. Sawgrass Players Club rules require bikes traveling more than 15 mph to stay on the roads and state law requires all cyclists to obey stop signs, use hand signals, and come to full stops at intersections. Also, state law requires helmets for anyone younger than 16 years of age.

First Coast Security has been increasing patrol of golf carts. Recently they issued citations for unlicensed drivers using a golf cart. Parents, make sure only licensed drivers are operating golf carts.

First Coast Security and the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office are also monitoring trespassing issues, including trespassing for fishing. Remember golf courses are private property and fishing is only permitted from common area property.

During THE PLAYERS week, damage occurred to the green gate in Oakbridge. First Coast Security worked in partnership with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office to identify the person and repair is scheduled.

Finally, we wanted to share a reminder to make sure to stop at gate houses and wait for vehicle In front of you to clear the gate.

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**
Secretary: Teri Mathes	**minshet@msn.com**
Director: John Flynn	**johndflynnjr@comcast.net**
Director: Nancy Gormley	**ncgormley@outlook.com**
Director: Adam Guilette	**adamguilette@gmail.com**
Director: Gerry Klingman	**gjk55@aol.com**
Director: Derek Sprague	**DerekSprague@pgatourtpc.com**

Did you know you can pay your master association semi-annual dues 5 different ways?

Payment Options are as follows:

Mail
Mail check, money order or cashier check, with the statement provided.

In Person
Bring check, money order or cashier check with the statement provided to Marsh Landing Management Company or visit any Truist location.

Please remember due payments received by check, money order or cashier check for the master association and a sub-association cannot be combined.

ACH
To pay by ACH, visit Truist.com/payments and click Pay Now or Enroll.

Payments are deducted on the third of the month (or following business day if there is a holiday). There is no minimum balance required or convenience fee.

eCheck
To pay by eCheck, visit Truist.com/payments and request a one-time electronic funds transfer by ACH debit from a checking or savings account. There is no convenience fee.

Credit or Debit Card
To pay by credit or debit visit, Truist.com/payments and click Pay Now or Enroll. There is a 2.95 percent fee charged for credit card transactions and flat $4.95 convenience fee for debit card transactions. The exact fee will be displayed before a payment is submitted online.

Wow – Wonderful Winterfest!

Photos courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

We could not have ordered more perfect weather for our Winterfest. Close to 400 attended this annual event at Players Park on Sunday, Jan. 28. Kids were bouncing and twirling on the bungee jump or being harnessed in attempting to reach the summit of the rock-climbing wall, while others were doing the same in the rope climbing tower. We saw the lines of kids (and parents too) forming to ride the always popular train ride around the park, only to get off and get back in line to go around again.

The inflatable obstacle course proved challenging, but fun. The mechanical bull once again brought out the inner "urban cowboy or cowgirl" in many.

We were greeted with lots of painted, happy, smiling faces of lions, tigers, fairies, unicorns, spiderman or some with a snake crawling up an arm. DJ Phil Hart once again provided great sounds and the food trucks were busy including an endless line at Mr. Softee for ice cream.

See more photos on page 13!

Softee
SHAK

Recreation Committee Page

Food Truck Tuesdays continue

We love a break from the kitchen and it appears we are not alone!

The first Tuesday of each month finds us at Players Pool at the Coves from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. choosing from a wonderful sample of menus from three food trucks, plus a sweet treat truck. We send out email blasts along with posting on the SPC Facebook page the week or so before to give you a hint of what is in store when you attend our event.

Come try it out — we'll see you there!

Music Night updates

By Debbie McWade

Friday, March 22: Rescheduled to Friday, April 5. Once again, Mother Nature had a different idea for how we should spend our Friday evening. We will be looking forward to Friday April 5 to listen to a Top Ten-rated group of four — The Shades of Grey Band. Look for photos and a writeup in the Summer issue of Players Journal.

Music Night – Friday May 3: Rescheduled to May 10. We have a great band lined up — Sidewalk 65, performing rock and roll, Motown, R & B, funk and more. Some of the bands and artists they cover include The Beatles, David Bowie, Buddy Holly, Garth Brooks, Cheap Trick, Al Green, REM, The Rolling Stones, Jimmy Buffet, Steve Miller Band and many more.

So, grab your partner, lawn chairs, blankets and your dancing shoes for another great time at Players Park. The park will be open at 6 p.m. with music beginning at 7 p.m. and ending at 9 p.m. We'll have three food trucks and a cash only bar will also be available.

Remember parking is very limited so walk, bike, or golf cart your way to Players Park. Golf cart parking is available by entering from Alta Mar and parking in front of the tot lot.

Players Park Tot Lot renovations planned

By Debbie McWade

While the replacement of the Tot Lot was planned for 2026, former committee member Alison Michalek, with the full support of the Recreation Committee, requested and received approval that the Reserve Advisor push forward the replacement to 2024.

The Recreation Committee has begun working to renovate the Players Park Tot Lot. This reserve funded project is in the planning stages, but will include replacement of the two main play structures, adding a swing set with a shade sail and a merry-go-round, along with the enhancement and relocation of other pieces.

We hope to have the final plans to share in the next month or so. Stay tuned!

Get ready for Spring Fling!

By Debbie McWade

On Sunday, April 14, from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. at Players Park is the place to be for the Recreation Committee's annual Spring Fling! We have lots of fun in store for the entire family. We'll have a petting zoo, bubble truck, balloon artists and our challenging field games with prizes — all this to the great sounds of DJ Phil Hart. We'll have fabulous food trucks to offer great meals and snacks: What's the Catch and Slider Rider along with Repicci's Italian ice and gelato.

Come join us on Sunday, April 14 from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. Remember, parking is very limited, so walk, bike or golf cart your way to Players Park. Golf cart parking is available by entering off Alta Mar and parking in front of the tot lot. Hope to see you there!

Players Pool renovations complete!

By Debbie McWade

There's been quite a bit of activity at Players Pool the last couple of months. The Recreation Committee, at the direction of the Sawgrass Players Club master board, began the reserve funded rehab of the Players Pool. By the time you are reading this article, the Players Pool rehab should be complete. The work began the last week of January and we are hopeful that by April 1 we will be back in business!

The work included draining the pool and a total refinish including walls and bottom surfaces, pressure washing, inspecting the shell and hydraulic pressure beneath the pool. A new main drain frame and grate was installed, while non-skid tile on the pool steps was also installed. After a primer was applied, Krystal-Krete was applied to pool walls and bottom and hand troweled to a proper finish.

Photos courtesy Debbie McWade

The work also included new pavers throughout the pool area. The pavilion floor and restroom floors received a Shark Coating and will be painted as soon as the dust settles. The restrooms at Players Park also received the Shark Coating upgrade and paint. A new and improved water fountain will also be installed at the pool.

We appreciate your patience while we made much needed enhancements and improvements. Come check it out!

Landscaping: Have you noticed?

By Carole McManus

Early in January, the Sawgrass Players Club Landscape Committee met on site to finalize the plan for a landscape refresh at the west side of the A1A Sawgrass Players Club entrance. The unanimous decision on Precision Turf's design brought change.

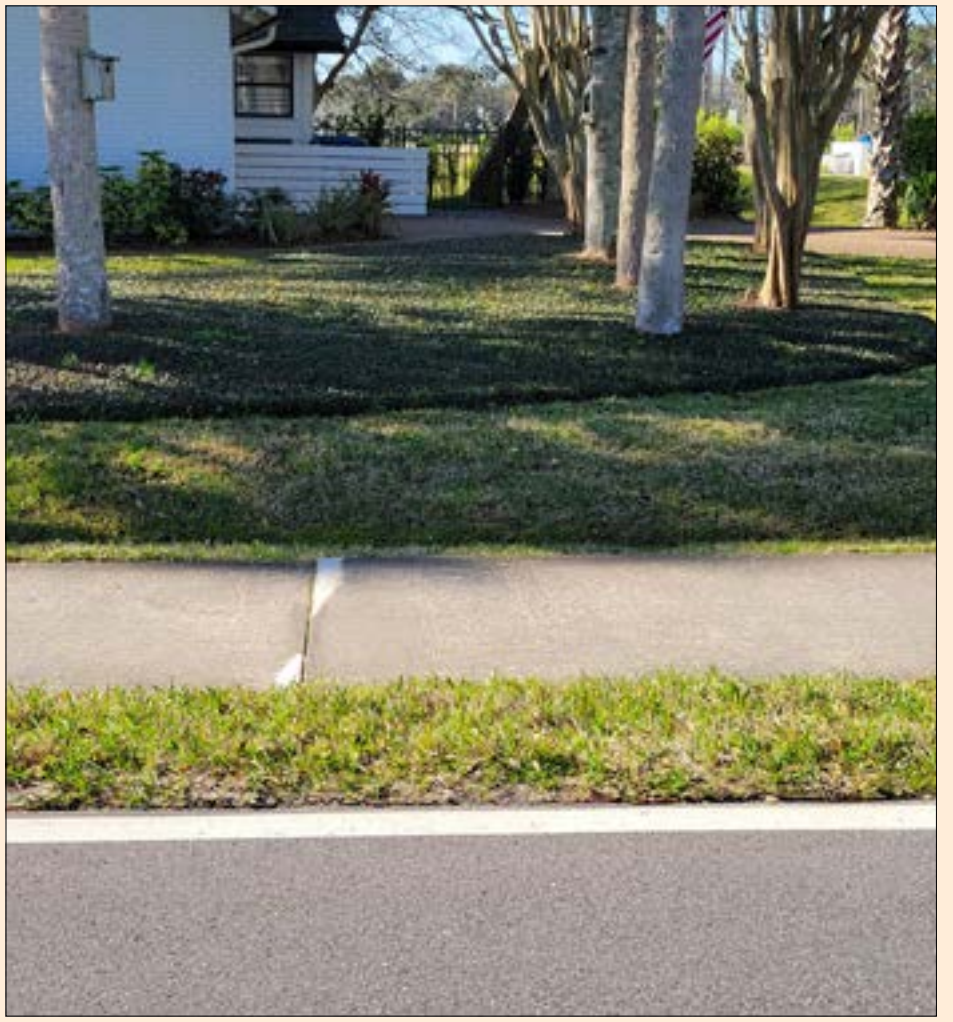
Shortly thereafter, work was underway with the removal of aging plant materials, relocating of boulders, irrigation improvements and the installation of new plant selections.

So, in case you missed it, check out the first major 2024 landscape improvement for the SawgrassPlayers Club in the photo below.

Photo courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

Hurricane season will be here soon

The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. St. Johns County Emergency Management's Hurricane Preparedness Guide (www.sjcfl.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/SJC-Hurricane-Preparedness-Guide.pdf) will be updated and available to the public during that time. Additionally, St Johns County offers an Emergency Notification System that you can register for at Alert St Johns by visiting www.sjcfl.us/alerts/. This system enables the county to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, water advisories, missing persons, evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods and incidents that may threaten public safety. Residents who do not have access to the website can also contact SJC Emergency Operations Center directly: (904) 824-5550



Photos courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

Grinding.

Sidewalk Safety

The Sawgrass Players Club master association has a very proactive maintenance program in place for the sidewalks. There are more than five miles of sidewalks in the community that are continually inspected. Pressure washing, partial sidewalk replacements, and grinding is performed to keep things safe. Please do your part when you use the sidewalks:

- Keep all bikes and scooters that exceed 15 mph off the sidewalks.
- Avoid walking side by side.
- Make sure you can hear — use only one earbud.
- Look out for obstructions. Keep your eyes on the sidewalk (not on your phone).
- Go hands free. Do not walk/jog/run and text.
- Wear visible clothes, helmets, and proper padding.

Partial replacement pavers.

Getting to know Kristy Richland from Marsh Landing Management Company

By Adam Guillette

Q: What is your official job title at Marsh Landing Management?

A: I'm the Senior Property Manager.

Q: What does that entail?

A: A lot of meetings! Last year I literally attended 200 HOA-related meetings.

Photo courtesy Kristy Richland

Kristy Richland with Tripp Richland and Hunter Richland.

When I am not in a meeting, I most often play the role of a traffic controller for the more than 3,000 homeowners and 30 commercial entities because I help direct them where to go.

Q: What else does Marsh Landing Management do for the residents?

A: We bring any resident matters to the appropriate committees for discussion and decision making. We prepare email notices and policies based on board and committee discussions. Our office sends required notices for First Coast citations and unresolved master board violations. Our controlled access administrator for Marsh Landing Management Company installs RFIDs Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., supports gatehouse registration, ensures that leases are properly filed, and the software database is up to date and current with owner information.

In addition, Marsh Landing Management Company's Architectural Control Coordinators serve as liaisons to homeowners for all exterior modification requests. They send all modification requests to the subassociation (HOA) review boards who then have 30 days to review exterior modification requests. Additionally, they send requests that require a permit, are visible from the golf course, or impact the waterways, to the Master Architecture Control Committee (ACC) for written approval. The Master ACC also has 30 days to review plans after Architecture Review Board (ARB) approval, and they meet twice per month.

On top of that, we support the Operations, Maintenance and Waterways (OMW) Committee. That means we schedule and supervise staff, we liaison with the relevant contractors, and we provide oversight of community projects. Our staff also maintains the two pumphouses (located in Salt Creek and at 250 Roscoe Road), the master-owned sidewalks, right of ways, Players Pool, and Players Park.

Q: What are your priorities and goals for your position?

A: I have two! I like to educate Marsh Landing Management Company staff and all my boards and committees on best practices and responsibilities based on evolving statutes and collective experiences, and to bring efficiency and experience to the committee members I work with.

Q: What do you do for fun when you're not at your desk or attending a meeting?

A: I most enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I love traveling, trying new foods, reading, being on the water and organizing.

Neighborhood News

A message from Players Club Villas Board President Leslie Polsen

I'd like to take a few minutes to introduce our new board members. Our annual meeting was held March 4 and was very well attended. That meeting marked the end of fiscal year 2023 and the beginning of our new fiscal year 2024. With that we had two members, Julia Mutch and Brittany DesMarais come off the board and Laura Cook and Dede Goldhagen come on.

After the general meeting we met briefly to determine each of our positions for the coming year. I am going to take over from Julia Mutch as president. Kevin Kelly will remain as vice president, Harriet Hemphill will continue as treasurer, Dede Goldhagen will be taking over from Brittany DesMarais as secretary and Laura Cook will be assuming my former position as director. This is the perfect time to thank both Julia and Brittany and say how much we appreciate all the volunteer time and effort they put forth during their tenures. Some say it's a thankless job, but I am proving them wrong, three times over.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, Julia and Brittany!

We just had our Spring Pool Party on March 20 with lots of good food and mixing and mingling. We had to say goodbye to a few who are moving away, but are happy to welcome the new ones! If you missed this get together, our next neighborhood party will be in the fall. Invitations will be sent out by that date, but it'll probably be sometime in October.

We've added many new plantings and garden beds to the community which has "enhanced the loveliness!" Also, we are working on updating and upgrading our lighting. This past year we replaced the address lights on our utility courts and next on the agenda will be some island uplighting. Look for that to happen very soon.

Cypress Creek holds annual meeting

By Sorin Brull, HOA President

The Cypress Creek homeowners' annual meeting was held at Pusser's Bar and Grille on Feb. 26, 2024. The meeting was well attended by more than 35 residents, and a number of topics were brought up and discussed. Most topics dealt with violations of the currently approved Cypress Creek Rules and Regulations and their enforcement. A brief presentation of the annual budget revealed sufficient funds in the reserve account and did not require an increase in annual dues, despite modest increases in the cost of insurance and services.

A brief question and answers session followed, which included various topics such as traffic safety, golf carts, electric bicycles, and the master board-proposed expansion of the parking area next to the playground.

Following the Q&A session, the current Cypress Creek board of directors met for the annual vote. The current president graciously elected to end his amazing 28-year service as president and nominated Sorin J. Brull as the new president, who was elected unanimously. The board also selected Beverly Reilly as vice president, Arthur Lancaster as treasurer, Michael Resetar as secretary, and Bruce Barber as director. Our neighborhood owes a great debt of gratitude to Bruce Barber for his unwavering dedication to Cypress Creek for the past three decades.

The newly-installed board of directors wish to recognize and thank our new Community Association Manager, Elliott Neumaier, who has already had a fantastic and positive impact on our community. A special thank you, on behalf of the entire association, goes to the Cypress Creek Architectural Review Board — Carla Resetar (chair), Austin Mahler, Michelle Treddinick, Cathe Sommerlad, and Tammy Barrick — who volunteer every month to ensure that the beauty and safety of the neighborhood are preserved.

We would also like to thank all of the Cypress Creek homeowners for their attendance at this annual event, and for the plethora of ideas and suggestions for making the best Players Club neighborhood even better. We all look forward to seeing everyone at the next annual meeting; until then, the board members pledge to continue to work hard to maintain Cypress Creek as the most beautiful, safest, and most coveted neighborhood in

Wow! Wonderful Winterfest!

County selects FCC Environmental Services Florida as solid waste provider

On Dec. 19, 2023, during the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners' regular meeting, FCC Environmental Services Florida, LLC was identified as the top-ranked firm, and a contract for residential solid waste collection including household garbage, recycling, and yard waste collection services was approved.

The new contract begins Aug. 1, 2024. There will be no increase in customer fees for the first year of service; however, it is important to contact your subassociation property manager if your community pays for and has more than one weekly pick up. All current service levels will remain in place which include weekly curbside collection of household garbage, yard waste, recycling, and bulk waste as well as scheduled services like appliance pick-up requested by customers.

Sign up for "The Curbside Times" monthly newsletter for solid waste news, resources, and more at https://www.sjcfl.us/departments/solid-waste-mgmt/

Photo courtesy St. Johns County

FCC Environmental Services truck.

Players Park parking lot — plans are in progress

By Kristy Richland

For more than a year the Operations Maintenance and Waterways (OMW) Committee has been working with third party engineering firm Almond Engineering to design a parking lot expansion at Players Park. The project is being done at the request of the Players Club Recreation Committee and homeowners living within Cypress Creek with the overall goal to accommodate the increase in resident use of Players Park and to reduce vehicles parked along Cypress Creek entrance, which can cause traffic obstructions.

The initial engineering design plans proposed access off Alta Mar Drive; however, due to proximity of Turtleback Crossing this plan was not permitted.

The engineer is now drafting modified plans to propose 15 extra paved spaces immediately adjacent to the existing paved lot towards Alta Mar Drive and the sidewalk. The preliminary plans also include an additional gravel area that could provide another 20 spaces for Players Club Recreation Committee sponsored events only (such as Spring Fling). The gravel lot would have a gate so that it could be locked during all other times.

As of March, the county and St. Johns River Water Management District continue to review plans and request additional information from Almond Engineering. Once plans are finalized and approved, then plans can be obtained so requests for proposals can be sought.

Spring is in the air: lake management continues

By Joe Lawton, Clear Waters

The warmer weather is slowly setting in. Daylight hours are noticeably getting longer. Clear Waters technicians have been actively treating Vallisneria in the ponds where it is present. The plants continue to flower and are actively growing, so the time is right to keep the pressure on. We will continue to manage the duckweed and azolla throughout the growing season. The plan is to keep it under control to avoid large concentrations from forming.

The midge flies will be showing up over the next couple weeks. Clear Waters will continue to apply Bio Zyme in the known areas to help break down the muck layer that the larvae reside in. We cannot eradicate them; however, we can help cut down on the population that will be with us over the next several months.

Clear Waters will be continuing with remedial treatments on the waterways that have the highest concentrations of algae. Along with necessary treatments, we will be utilizing products that sequester excess nutrients from the water column.

As part of our balanced lake management program, we have stocked 430 grass carp over the last couple months in the waterways with the highest concentrations of undesirable vegetation. Every year or two it is important to stock a younger generation of fish that will consume more than their older counterparts. Very much like humans, their metabolism slows down as they age so they slow down and don't eat as much.

As always, please 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.

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Contributed by the PGA TOUR

The 50th Anniversary of THE PLAYERS was truly something special and will go down in history as one of our best yet and we are grateful for your support which made it all possible.

The sunny skies and gentle breezes created an ideal backdrop for the world-class golf and festivities that unfolded and we saw a remarkable turnout of fans from around the world. Their enthusiasm and passion for the game were palpable, adding to the electric atmosphere that permeated the entire event as we enjoyed one of the most thrilling finishes in championship history.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of more than 2,000 volunteers who generously gave their time and energy to ensure the smooth operation of the tournament. The logistical aspects of the event, including parking arrangements in 4W for carts and bicycles, went seamlessly and on Friday we had more than 500 bicycles and 200 golf carts on property.

Looking ahead, planning for THE PLAYERS 2025 is already underway. We are committed to building upon the successes of this year's tournament and delivering an even more exceptional experience for players, spectators, and residents alike.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. Your contributions are instrumental in making TPC Sawgrass the premier destination for golf enthusiasts around the world.

What's your favorite memory of The Players Championship?

"Meeting my future in-laws for the first time on 17! Married 31 years now!"

– Laura Schnorr Warwin, Oakbridge

***

"Obviously Taco Lu's 'Tacos on Twelve'"

– Adam Guillette, Bridgewater

***

"Last year being able to walk in for the first time and not deal with parking from my own new house on Seven Mile Drive!"

– Angie Smith, Seven Mile Drive

***

"When David Duval won and a bunch of our middle school guy friends painted Duval on their chests at the 18th green and chanted "Duval!""

– Bridget Oulundsen Caron, Oakbridge

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