



*Newsletter  
Fall 2018*

*Welcome Back Cottagers!*



## President's Message



Kiki Scovel

Like many of you, I spent most of the summer months traveling outside of Florida and I was so happy to return to The Cottages in time to see a gorgeous rainbow over the gazebo and the landscape overflowing with flowers and greenery. Thanks to Green Acres our palms have been trimmed and the oak trees pruned. DeSoto Tree was on the street for over a week to do the trimming and limb removal. I am pleased to report The Cottages is looking great.

As you return from your summer locations you will notice a number of residents are undergoing new roof installations. I have received many questions about the process. Because we are a neighborhood with coordinated exteriors, The Cottages requires a specific roof tile to be used for replacements. The tile specs and guidelines are available on The Cottages website at [www.cottagespl.org](http://www.cottagespl.org). Please contact any board member for assistance. While on the subject of roofs—please give your roof an honest appraisal for mold growth and staining and if it is not looking its best, make arrangements for a cleaning when the rainy season ends. Your neighbors and board thank you!

Fall also brings around budget time. Thanks to the hard work of Treasurer Dennis Lowe, we have a good handle on The Cottages operating expenses and reserves going into 2019 and a draft budget is now under review by Resort Management. A small increase to our quarterly assessment is proposed. Many of us assumed having reclaimed water from Bay Creek CDD would reduce our water costs but the opposite has proven to be the case, and the board needs to keep reserve funding at the proper level to meet future needs. The Cottages has been extremely fortunate in having a long line of Board members who understood and carefully managed our reserve funding and we all have benefited greatly from their stewardship, both past and present.

Dennis Lowe and Joe Sidoti spent hours this summer to track down and solve the electrical problems that have affected our entry lighting for some time. After completing a comprehensive search Joe discovered one side of the entry has no connected electric line. Arrangements have been made to lay a new line and restore the lighting. While doing his survey Joe created an electric schematic which Dennis then computerized for board use. Joe had such success with the electric schematic he is now working to create a similar irrigation schematic.

I hope you all have safe travels as you begin to make your way south to The Cottages. I look forward to seeing you at The Cottages Welcome Back Social—5:30 PM November 5th at the Gazebo.

*See you there!*

*Kiki*

# *New roofs require DRC approval*

## *New Roof Tile Specifications*

Beginning in 2015 The Cottages Board of Directors approved the roof tiles specified below to be used for all roof replacements in The Cottages. The original tiles are no longer available and unmatched replacement tiles will not be approved.

All roofs, both patching and full replacements, must fill out a DRC form and be approved by The Cottages Board of Directors and Pelican Landing DRC prior to the start of the work. If you have forgotten to submit the DRC, no problem, the Board can sign it retroactively so you will be in compliance with PLCA covenants.



***Thanks for your cooperation!***

**Brand:** Boral USA #1GCCW0308CD

(formerly ENTEGRA # F-CDTN-CD-Y-SL-15-1)

**Order Specs:** #1GCCW0308CD

**Color:** Slate-like Cedar Tan black and brown antique



## *Flag proposed for Gazebo area*

A flag is being considered for the Gazebo entrance area. Kiki Scovel has a telescoping flag pole that she would like to donate to the Cottages. The flag would be placed in the approximate area shown in the photo. A dedicated spot light would shine on the flag from dusk to dawn.



## *Maps of key utilities services being developed*





# *Around the Neighborhood*



Ralph Damico requested Pelican's Nest to clean up several palms in the area behind his house. They were very cooperative and this is the result.



Barnickes installed a new tree to replace a dead oak.



Five residents are installing a new roof



## Woodpecker spray coating

In addition to a new roof *Jaeckle's (3660)* had Absolute Wildlife Control apply a hard spray coating to the foam trim deter woodpeckers from making holes. *Craft's (3625)* also had this process done.

Areas around the foam trim are masked off and the decorative foam is then sprayed with a chemical solution that hardens. The hardened surface is then painted to match the white color trim. This process is expensive, costing around \$2,200 depending on the linear feet of trim that need to be sprayed. The effectiveness of this process at this time is unknown to the Board and remains to be seen once the woodpeckers launch another attack.





# Maintenance News

## *Entry lighting repaired*



Joe Sidoti  
Secretary/  
Maintenance

Thirteen light bulbs in the entry landscaping lights were burned out and had to be replaced. Several unused hook-ups are available and new lights are being installed (broken lights were never replaced). There is no power available to several line segments due to untraceable line cuts and new lines are being installed to be able to power these unlit lights. Green Acres will dig a trench about 100 feet, 12 inches deep, to bury the new line. Conners Electric will then make the appropriate connections.



West side entry existing lights  
power not activated



Hook-ups available; lights to be added.

# Pet owners beware! Recent rain brings out deadly toads



Kermit the Frog may be cute but there's nothing cute about those cane toads you see in your yard or hopping across the street after a heavy rain. Cane toads, also known as Bufo toads, are poisonous, they are everywhere in southwest Florida during the summer months, and they can absolutely kill your pet. If you have a dog or cat, please take a moment to review this article to find out what to do if your pet comes into contact with one of these toxic toads.

Recent rain over the last few weeks are bringing out more cane toads around Southwest Florida. Cane toads, also known as the bufo toads, are highly dangerous, especially to dogs.



Veterinary Dr. Bonnie Tucker of Kindness Animal Hospital in Cape Coral said, "Usually the first sign you start to see is that the dog starts to drool and starts to lip smack," adding that the effects on your pet depends on how much toxin they come in contact with.

"In a lot of cases, the big dogs actually eat the toad or bite into the toad. Those dogs are getting a lot of toxin at one time and within a matter of seconds to minutes those dogs are going to start to have a seizure," Dr. Tucker said.



Cuban Tree Frogs

Dog owners are now on the lookout, "I think that if people walk down these pathways, they should be aware of it.

When a toad feels threatened by another animal, it will secrete a hazardous toxin from glands behind its head and eyes, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Depending on the amount of toxin that was released, it can cause serious illness or become deadly for pets.



Giant toads are most active at night when temperatures are low and humidity is high. That's when pet and toad interactions are more likely to happen, according to the FWC. If pet owners suspect their cat or dog was poisoned by a toad, they should take the following steps:

Get a hose and run water inside the pet's mouth and point their head downward so that the water isn't swallowed. Rub the pet's gums and mouth to remove toxins. Call a veterinarian as soon as possible.



# HIGH

# ANXIETY

The Cottages is back to normal one year after Hurricane Irma. However, the 2018 hurricane season is upon us and there is a heightened sense of anxiety. When will the next storm hit us? Residents need to be ready.

Large oak over Olde Cottage Lane

*View of Cottages & Hurricane 12*



*Rainbow over the Cottages*





# 2019 Budget Proposed

*Quarterly fee increases slightly  
Reserves, repairs & water require increase*

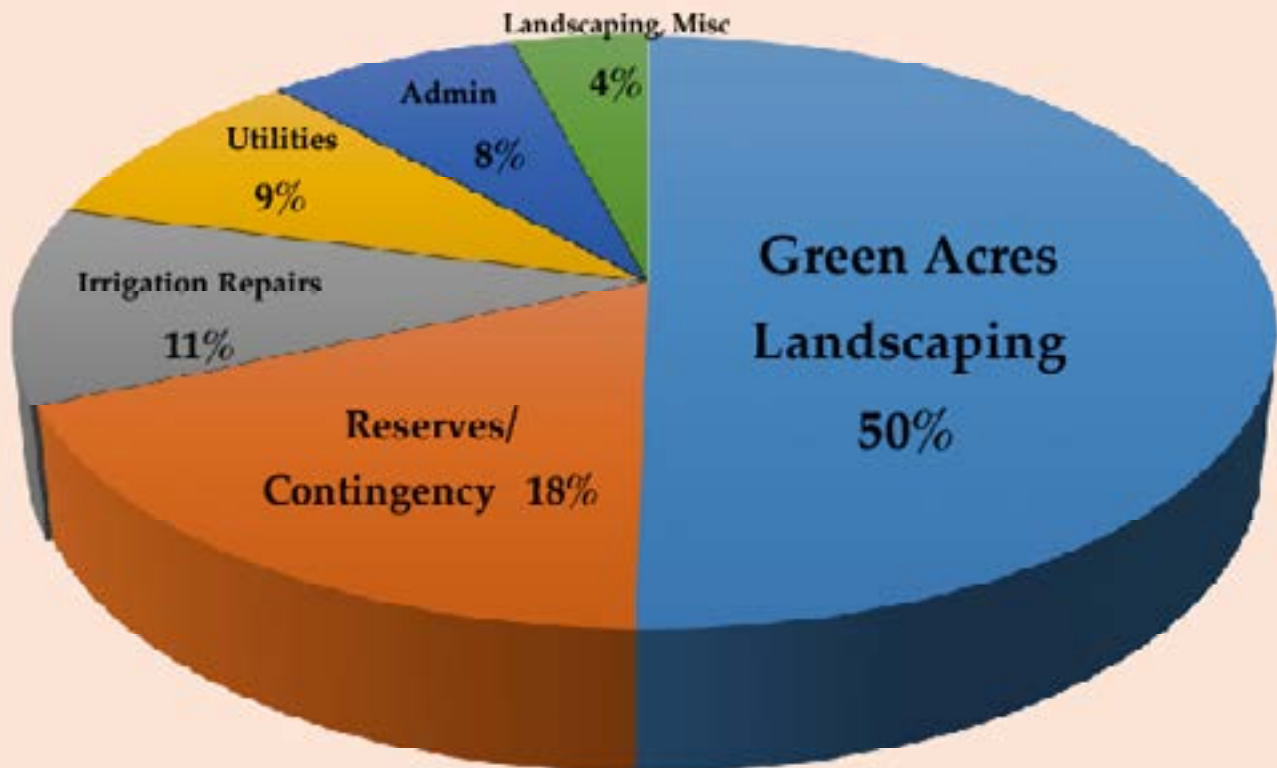


**Dennis Lowe**  
Treasurer

The *proposed* 2019 budget requires an increase in the quarterly fee by \$24 to \$798 (3%). The primary driver of the increase is the need to replenish the Reserve funds for the 2018 repair of road curbs (\$7,500) and the replacement of the cupola top beams in the Gazebo (\$2,500). Irrigation water and tree trimming are increasing by \$1,000. The budget for GA landscaping was increased for the first time in 3 years by 3%. We are continuing to sufficiently fund our Irrigation Repairs to provide for the unexpected costly repairs of mainline pipe and valve breaks and controller replacements.



## 2019 Proposed Budget \$131K



# GA applies pesticide

## Making "The Cottages Look Good"

Green Acres' Steve Kubicsek applied pesticide to the Cottages turf and shrubs during July. These applications prevent or reduce the damage that various insect pests may cause.



**Steve Kubicsek**  
Green Acres

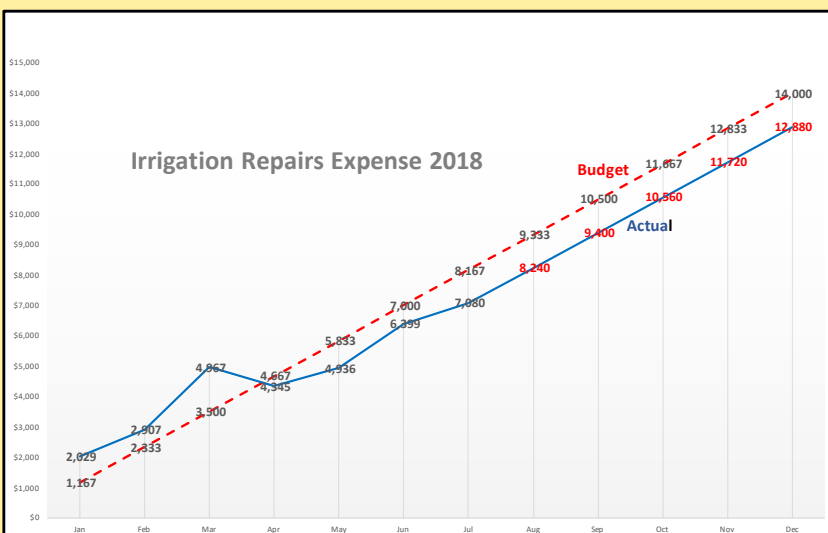


# Irrigation & Water

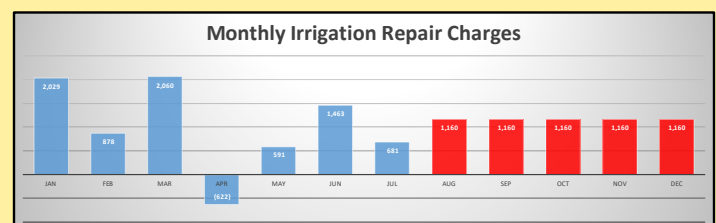
Irrigation repair expenses and water usage are both running slightly under budget through July. Repair expenses running close to budget is good since we had to absorb a rollover \$2,000 of unbudgeted expenses to activate the east water meter at the end of 2017 to provide increased water pressure.



**Dan Geist**  
Bradford Solutions



These charts show Aug through Dec estimated expenses running on budget. Final results could be over / under.





## *Palms & oaks trimmed*



This year Green Acres used a crane box to trim trees versus ladders used in previous years. About 290 palms and 68 oaks will be trimmed at a cost of about \$10,000. This project took a week to complete.



# Check out the Website



Kiki Scovel Webmaster

email Kiki:

[cottagespl@gmail.com](mailto:cottagespl@gmail.com)

The Cottages webpage has a lot of valuable information:

- service dates (garbage, landscaping)
- important phone numbers & addresses
- residents real estate for sale
- governing documents
- past annual meeting presentation
- meeting minutes
- past newsletters
- budget info
- photos
- social
- links and update on current events.

<http://www.cottagespl.com>





# SUMMER FLOWERS BLOOM







Donna Lowe

# Social Activities



Judy Maish

## 2018 FALL SOCIAL



**THE NEXT COTTAGES SOCIAL IS PLANNED FOR:**

**Monday, November 5th, 5:30**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**



# LANDSCAPING WALK-AROUNDS <sup>17</sup>

THE COTTAGES BOARD CONDUCTS A MONTHLY WALK-AROUND WITH STEVE KUBICSEK / GREEN ACRES TO EVALUATE THE STATUS OF LANDSCAPING AREAS THAT NEED ATTENTION. THIS REVIEW IS GENERALLY CONDUCTED ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00 AM



Kiki Scovel  
Joe Sidoti  
Steve Kubicsek

(Dennis Lowe taking photo)

## 2018 Cottages Board



**Kiki Scovel**  
President  
Landscaping



**Joe Sidoti**  
Secretary  
Maintenance



**Dennis Lowe**  
Treasurer  
Newsletter



**Kevin Ingledue**  
Resort  
Management



*Travel safely*

