

A scenic view of a community garden. In the foreground, there are various plants including green grasses, a large rock, and a bush with purple flowers. In the middle ground, a white fence runs across the scene. In the background, a blue fountain sprays water into the air, surrounded by lush green trees and a clear blue sky.

# Cottages Newsletter

Spring 2018



Kiki Scovel  
President

## President's Message

As the new president of the HOA Board, I would like to thank all those who participated in this year's annual meeting and election. A special thanks to Joanna Wragg for serving 2 terms as the president of the previous board, and for her outstanding service to our community. For those who were unable to attend the meeting, Dennis Lowe once again prepared an informative Annual Report presentation that you can view at [www.cottagespl.org](http://www.cottagespl.org)

I am excited to serve on the board and look forward to working with Dennis and Joe in continuing the efforts to improve our very special community. Each board member has ideas and goals for the year ahead and I welcome any questions or concerns that you have as well.

On March 1st we transitioned to individual pool maintenance without problems and I thank each homeowner for their cooperation and assistance to the Board while making this change. An upcoming major improvement you can expect is the repair of the degraded and broken cement curbs and storm drain covers along Olde Cottage Lane. Joe has provided his expertise in contracting this work and the new curbs will be reinforced at critical points to prevent future damage from the heavy trucks that come onto the lane. We will also be replacing the pergola portion of the gazebo which has rotted in a number of places. The wood used will be pressure-treated and needs to dry for several months before painting. Rest assured the new pergola will be painted white after a suitable drying period.

Solar-powered landscape lighting has been installed on the islands and we have planted additional flowers at the entry island. Plans are in the works for additional landscape enhancements next fall. With the help of the many homeowners who have updated their yards our special neighborhood has never looked better.

*Thank you all!*

I look forward to seeing you at The Cottages Spring Farewell Social on April 4th at 5:00PM. Bring a dish to share and plan to enjoy another fun gathering of friends at the gazebo before we all go our separate ways to our summer destinations.



# Website News

## *Password no longer required*



Kiki Scovel  
Webmaster

For easier access the website no longer requires a password. You can find details for roof tile replacement, exterior paint colors, and contact information for all of our neighborhood contract vendors on the website. Visit <http://www.cottagespl.org>

The website helps to keep residents up-to-date on what is happening around The Cottages and keeps you connected to the neighborhood whether you are here or away. I encourage you to visit the webpage and become familiar with what it offers. Contact me at: [cottagespl@gmail.com](mailto:cottagespl@gmail.com)

## *Landscaping News*

### *Committee monitors landscaping with monthly walk-arounds*

A number of residents on the north road side have noticed dead or dying plants on the berm behind their houses since IRMA. We have contacted the Bay Creek CDD who is responsible for the berm and have not received any feedback at this time. While understanding that the CDD has a lot of areas to replant and that we are probably not a top priority, we will keep following up with CDD!

Green Acres planted a row of *Clusia Rosea* to replace dying shrubs on the west side. *Clusia* is a native plant for our area that is drought resistant and maintenance free. Two dead pine trees were removed from the east end (3633, 3645). Pine trees are not part of the Cottages streetscape plan, but residents are required to go through the DRC approval process. Dead tree removal is expedited for safety.

We are continuing to monitor the plants and irrigation in the east cul de sac. Thanks to Dan Geist this area is now getting reliable watering but it is taking some time for the plants to come back to full recovery.

Green Acres added more Blue Daze and side plantings to the south side of the entry island. High winds in February caused the hanging plants at the gazebo to be blown off several times and despite Joe Sidoti fixing them, the planters needed to be replaced. Steve K. provides the hanging plants free of charge to the Cottages. 2018 is the regular rotation for palm tree trimming and is scheduled to be done in the September-October time frame. If you have special landscape concerns please contact Green Acres at 239-348-2261 or leave a note in the gazebo mailbox.



Dan Geist



Steve Kubicsek



## *Roto Rooter to clean some residents' storm drains*

Thirteen inches of rain in the month of August followed by Hurricane Irma raised awareness of clogged drains on the properties of several Cottages residents. One home had very bad flooding that resulted in inches of water inside the house and very considerable repair costs to remove drywall and to mitigate mold. Roto Rooter surveyed the area and has provided a quote for residents' approval. They will use a metal detector to locate any other drains that might be covered with sand and mulch. The drains will be cleaned and hydro jetted.





# Around the neighborhood

## *Displaying American Flag*

When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed in the same way, that is with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.



Can the flag be flown at night?

According to the US Flag Code, all American flags should be displayed from sunrise to sunset every day. Lowering the flag at night is an ultimate sign of respect for Old Glory. But like many rules, there is an exception. *You can keep your flag flying 24-hours if it is properly illuminated during all hours of darkness.*

Many Cottages residents have had major driveway repairs caused by oak roots upheaving of many of the pavers and breaking irrigation lines.





# *Residents plant new landscaping*<sup>6</sup>





## Maintenance News

### *Road curbs need repair*

Trucks making the tight turn around the cul-de-sacs have been breaking up the curbs. Joe Sidoti is obtaining quotes for repair using concrete reinforced with rebar steel rods. These costs will be paid from the Road Reserve funds.



Joe Sidoti  
Maintenance Committee





## *Rotted pergola beams to be replaced*

The photos below show the cross beams over the Gazebo pergola that are rotting after about 20 years of Florida weather. Kevin Ingledue working with Joe Sidoti have obtained a quote for repair. Fourteen 2" x 10" ' beams will be installed and painted. Also added for additional storm resistance will be 28 hurricane clips. The cost of \$2,485 for this project will be paid from the Gazebo reserve funds.





## ***ALL EXTERIOR CHANGES NEED APPROVAL BY THE DRC***

**J**ust a friendly reminder that ALL exterior work (e.g. roofs, landscaping, tree removals/additions, etc) needs to be approved at the DRC Meeting PRIOR to the work beginning. Cottages residents must first obtain approval from the Cottages Board must prior to requesting Pelican Landing DRC approval.

DRC meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9 am. DRC requests are to be in by Noon on the Monday before the meeting -- NO exceptions. Anything submitted after the noon deadline will be heard the following month.

## ***Bobcat***

**E**ric Kelly, Critter Control, had set some traps for raccoons that had been plaguing residents near the 8th hole of one of the Nest golf holes. A bobcat entered one of the traps and was inadvertently caught. These photos show the bobcat before being released.



## *Battle of the Gators*

A couple of alligators were seen fighting in the lake along Hurricane #11. This guy lost!!



*Large gator on bank of Kayak Park lake*



# Finances



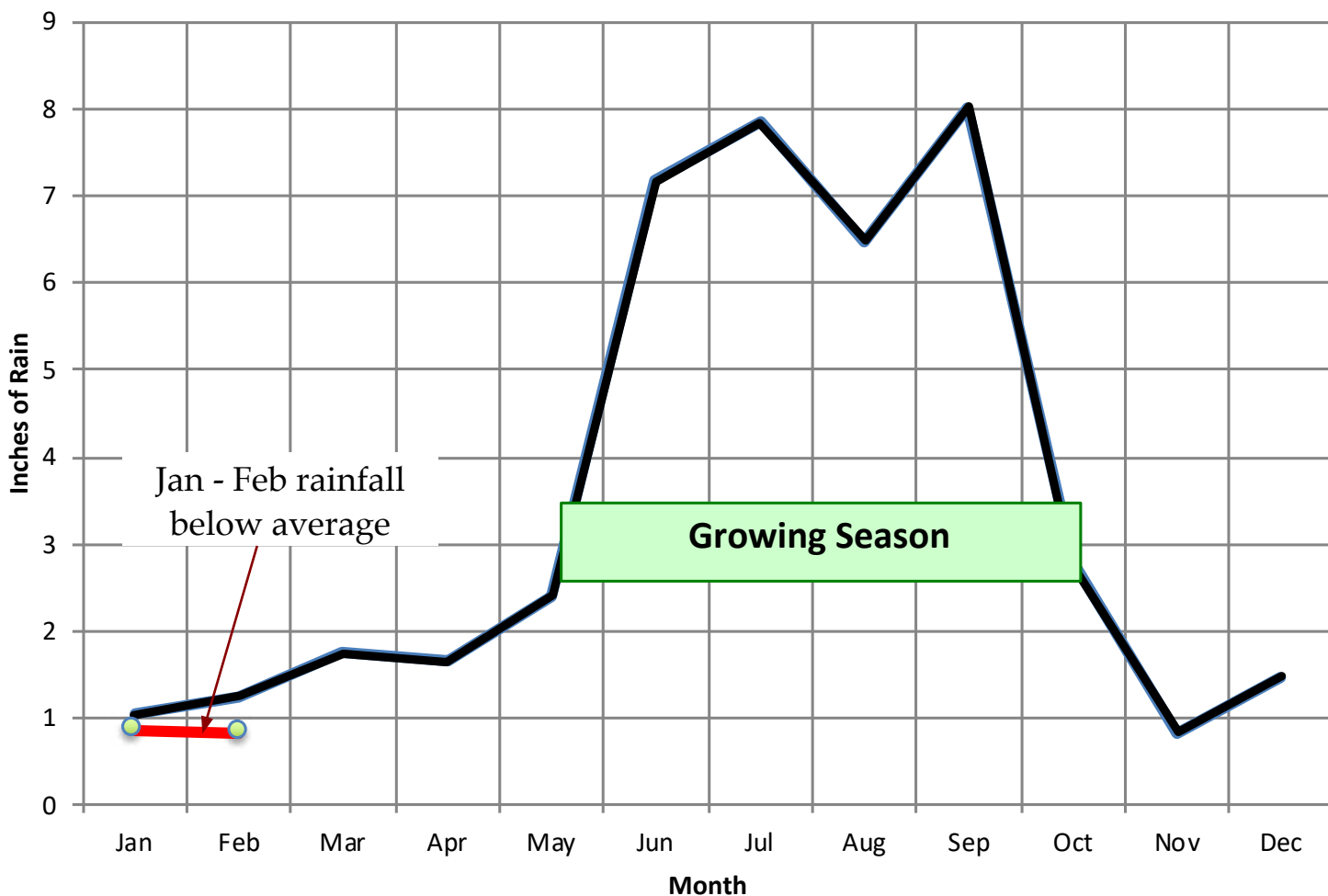
**Dennis Lowe**  
Treasurer

We have only received financial results so far for January. Our electricity charges were over budget due to a malfunction in the Gazebo fountain timer which caused 24 hour operation. The timer will need to be replaced. As mentioned in other articles herein our road curbs and Gazebo pergola will need repairs. These repairs will be taken out of their respective reserve accounts. Irrigation repairs relating to the activation of the east water meter hit our budget with an expected cost carryover into 2018.

## Dry Season is Here

*January & February rainfall below average*

### Bonita Springs Average Rainfall



# They're back!!



## Cottages Baby Gator

*This 3 foot gator was on the bank near the Gazebo*







Donna Lowe

# *April Social*

The next Gazebo social is planned for  
**Wednesday, April 4th 5:00 pm**  
*Mark your calendars!*



Judy Maish





WELCOME  
SPRING

*The Cottages Board*