



# *The Cottages*

*Newsletter*  
*Spring 2021*



*Kiki Scovel*

### *Happy Spring!*

I hope everyone has been able to enjoy the beautiful weather and lovely flowers in and around The Cottages that we are privileged to enjoy especially at this time of year.

I am happy to report the irrigation project on the west side has been completed and the system is operating reliably. The sod replacement took a bit longer than expected. In part this was due to the deep freeze in Texas. How so you may ask? Nurseries in Florida are getting premium pricing to ship their plants to Texas and that is affecting supply here in our area. Eventually it will all return to normal but in the meantime Green Acres is doing its best.

You may have noticed the poor condition of the grass along our gazebo front. This is a troublesome area that has had sod replaced 3 times, The roots from the large oaks in that area have made it very difficult to sustain grass there. The landscape committee is looking into re-landscaping alternatives. We also started an experiment several weeks ago with Zoysia grass instead of the St. Augustine in 2 yards. We will see how it looks after a dry season and a hot rainy season.

## *President's Letter, continued*

Residents were emailed a draft copy of our proposed amended documents last month. This was followed by our zoom Town Hall Meeting on March 22nd. A copy of the presentation was emailed to every resident. I urge you all to look at the presentation as it covers the highlights. In addition to the documents complying with current Florida statutes, the team updated the financial limit to \$30,000 and the capital contribution to \$1000 so it is in line with current costs. A huge thank you goes out to our Covenants Team -- Joanna Wragg, John Roscich, Jerry Ledderhoff, and Dennis Lowe. These dedicated residents have spent over a year working with attorney Sarah Spector on this detailed and time-consuming task. They kept it all moving forward despite the limits of covid restrictions and long zoom calls to complete this very critical task. The end result is documents that will take the Cottages into the next 20+ years. THANK YOU ALL!!

As you begin to travel again I wish you a safe and healthy summer and happy reunions with family and friends. We are all hoping for a Cottages Fall social at the gazebo!

*Kiki*

# Around the Neighborhood

## A grass experiment

Green Acres and the Landscaping Committee are trying a new Zoysia grass as an alternative to St. Augustine. Zoysia is perennial, so it comes back year after year when grown in appropriate climates. It's well-suited to lawns across the southern tier of states, from the hot, humid

Southeast to parts of California. We are hoping that the Zoysia shallower root system will grow better in areas with a lot of oak tree roots.



## Curb appeal

**M**any Cottages neighbors have been updating the curb appeal of their homes with enhanced landscaping. This makes the whole streetscape more attractive and reduces the amount of mulch required. The expensive mulch looks good for about 6 months but gets blown and washed away by heavy rains and landscaper blowing of leaves and debris.

If you are interested in updating your landscaping, contact Steve Kubicsek at Green Acres or another landscaper of your choice that can help with a design.

[greenacressteve@aol.com](mailto:greenacressteve@aol.com)

(239) 348-2261

# Around the Neighborhood

Pelican Landing is enforcing appearance standards again.  
How does this affect Cottages residents?



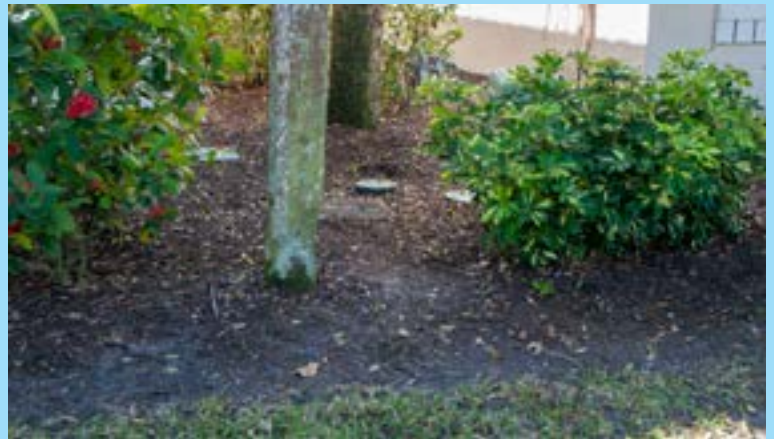
Residents enhance landscaping



# Around the Neighborhood



Bare areas could benefit from additional plants



# *Around the Neighborhood*



***A bobcat crosses Olde Cottage Lane***

***Photo taken by Paul Barnicke***



*Two gators in Cottages lake* ’



# 2021 Annual Meeting

Sixteen residents attended the 2021 annual meeting through a Zoom conference.

Topics discussed were:

- *Landscaping*
- *Website*
- *Financial Results*
- *Newsletters*
- *Maintenance*
- *Future Projects*

A copy of the presentation slides is available at our website:

<https://cottagespl.org>

## COVENANTS

After over a year of work the Covenants Update Team has completed an update of our governing documents. A resident Town Meeting was held on March 22 to review changes. A final copy will be sent to residents and a vote will be held for the resident approval. The amended documents will be filed with Lee County.

# Maintenance News

## Gazebo repair

The edging around the TREX deck was rotting and was replaced with TREX boards that will last for a long time. The carpentry work was done by KaraMar Ventures. They also leveled several areas of pavers that presented a tripping hazard.



*Rotted wood edging*



*New Trex edging*

# WELCOME

*New Cottages Residents*

Ellen & Rich Harper 3632

Sharon & Larry Monaco 3633

Jim Osborne 3661



# *New irrigation wiring*



Driveway  
pavers  
removed



Conduit & wire  
to control valve

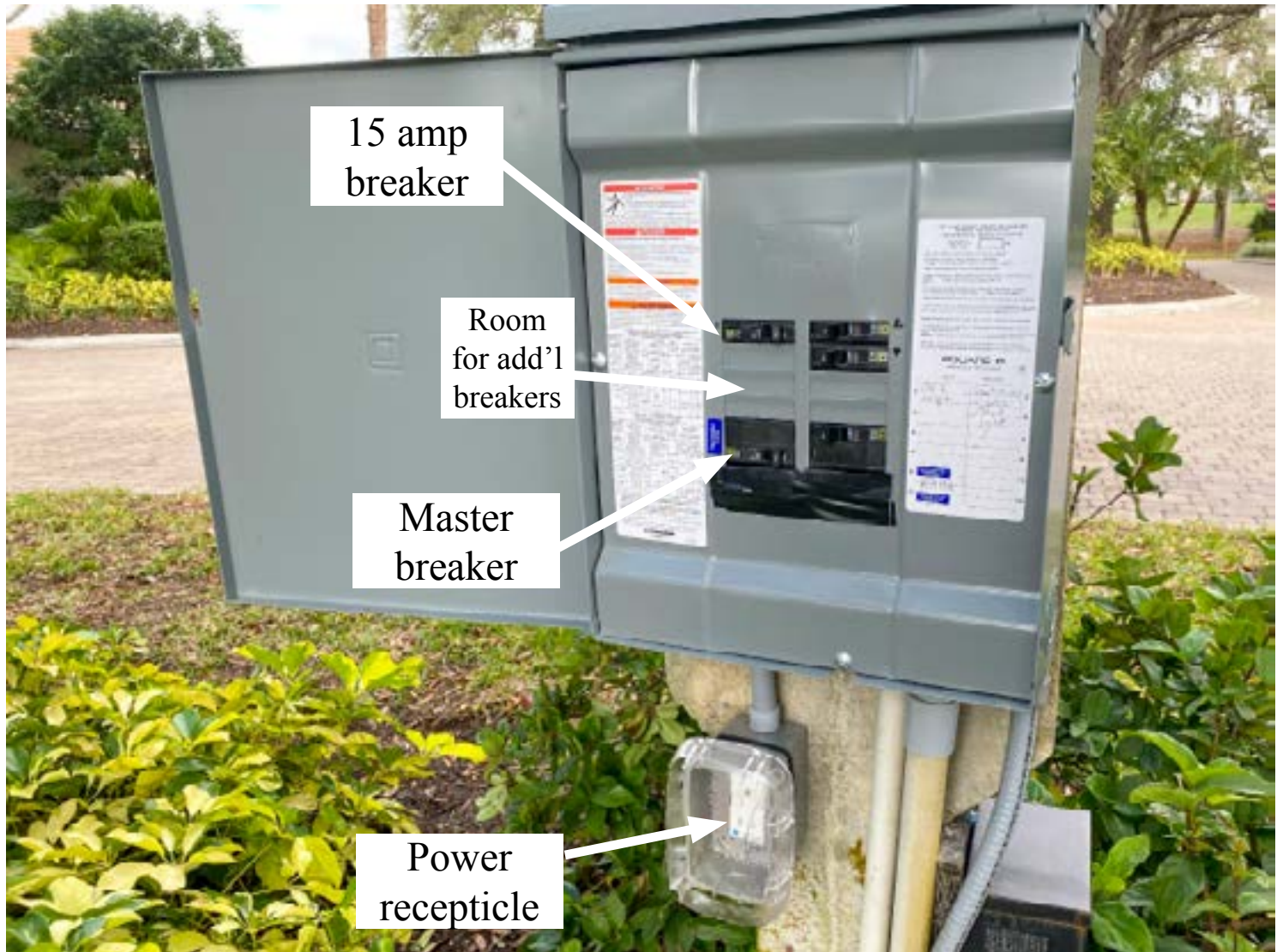


Conduit



Feeding wire into  
conduit

# *New Breaker Box installed*



A new breaker box was installed for several reasons. The old breaker box was leaking and breakers kept tripping.

The new irrigation wiring required a separate 15 amp breaker and a power receptacle.

# Cottages Entry

**5-Axle truck damage  
March 17, 2021 10:00 am**

**Flowers, curb & irrigation valve**

A 5-axle truck trying to deliver roof tiles rolled its tires 2 feet over the edge of the entry island causing considerable damage.



# *Gazebo repair*

Paul Barnicke discovered that the Gazebo post tops were collecting water & rotting. He worked with KaraMar Ventures to clean out the rot, fill in the areas with a sealer and cover the tops with aluminum caps.

**Tops of posts rotted;  
this one is the worst**



Cottages Gazebo

# *Paul Barnicke joins Cottages Board*



- Northern home in Toronto
- Cottages resident for 12 years since 2009
- Canadian CPA, retired from PwC  
(Price Waterhouse Cooper)
- Served on a number of not-for-profit boards in executive positions
- Spent most of working time in Toronto
- Also lived in NYC and England
- Paul will assume the position of treasurer





*Covid-19*

## **COTTAGES SOCIALS**

The next gazebo social is tentatively being planned for the Fall timeframe.

# LANDSCAPING WALK-AROUNDS <sup>18</sup>

THE COTTAGES BOARD CONDUCTS A MONTHLY WALK-AROUND WITH 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

## 2021 Cottages Board



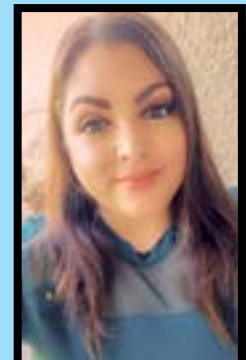
**Kiki Scovel**  
President  
Landscaping



**Paul Barnicke**  
Treasurer



**Dennis Lowe**  
Secretary  
Newsletter



**Scarlette Fernandes**  
Resort  
Management

*Happy Spring!  
Travel Safely*



*See you  
in the Fall*