

Cottages
Newsletter
Winter 2020

From the President

The Cottages
Home Owners Association



The Cottages is a good value

We enter a new year and a new decade in The Cottages with our neighborhood continuing to look forward with the revision and updating of our governing documents. The revision committee has just begun its work, holding its first meeting in November.

VALUE: The Cottages reserve funds are in good shape and our neighborhood continues to provide exceptional value for its residents. Treasurer Dennis Lowe recently sent me a breakdown of what each home pays for services and I was very surprised at the *low per home cost*. There is no way residents could duplicate this quality of services and maintenance if we had to go it alone.

TRUCKS: The Board had positive responses to the recently enacted over-size truck policy and the request that residents inform contractors of their responsibilities before work commences. Our web page has the contractor truck letter available for your convenience. We all hope this alleviates further problems with those big rigs running wild on Olde Cottage Lane and thank you for your support.

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Presidents Report continued ...

LANDSCAPE: Grounds upkeep is an ongoing process and over 250 new plants were added in the common areas to enhance the overall appearance of the entry and street. Palm trimming, which is done each year, was completed on schedule. New mulch was put down in late November. Mulch is calculated on a rough estimate of 30 bags per home plus common areas.

ECO-FRIENDLY: In the interest of being eco-friendly, I encourage residents who have large areas of mulch to install shrubs and permanent plantings in those areas instead of using resources for the endless mulch cycle. The Board investigated the replacement of our sodium street lights with warm LED lights. This would save us money on electricity as well as provide a softer, warmer light. Due to current Bonita Springs restrictions Florida Power & Light is unable to replace our street lights with lower cost LED lights at this time. FPL informed us that they are hoping Bonita Springs takes action to allow additional LED light choices within the next 6-7 months.

SOCIAL: We had one of the largest turn outs ever for our Welcome Back Social in November. The weatherman dialed in the perfect evening for us and the great food and drink made for a very enjoyable event. The eagles sat and watched us partying from their perch across the golf course! Many residents pitched in to help run our social and I thank you all for volunteering when needed. It reinforces to me how very fortunate we are to live in this friendly and beautiful neighborhood.

***My Best Wishes for a Joyful Holiday
Season & Happy New Year To You All—***



Finances

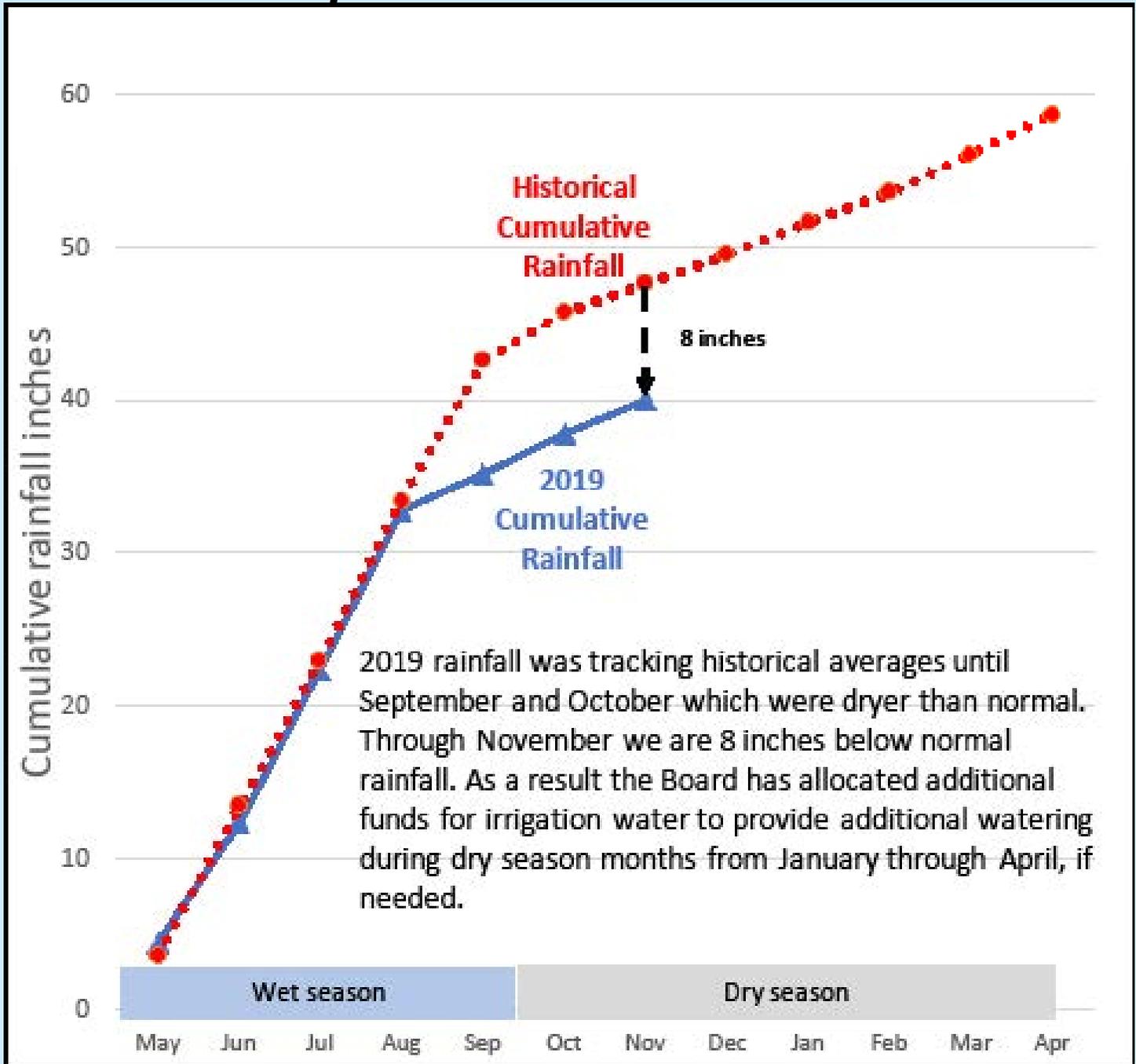
Quarterly fee increase for 2020

The current quarterly fee is \$798 and will increase to \$840, an increase of \$42 per quarter, about \$14 per month. In addition to COLA (cost of living) contractor increases there are several other areas such as insurance, legal fees, irrigation repairs and Reserves funding that are contributing to higher costs. In 2020 we will begin the process of updating the Cottages Covenants and Bylaws which will require legal fees. Our contribution to Reserves funds will also increase due primarily to the irrigation wiring project. We also budgeted additional funds for irrigation water to provide for what could be a *very* dry season. The chart below shows our monthly costs for each of our budget categories.

Budget Account	2020 Budget	Annual Resident Cost	Monthly Resident Cost
Grounds Contract	46,680	1,139	95
Reserve Fund Contrib.	22,515	549	46
Irrigation Repairs	14,000	341	28
Irrigation Water	11,000	268	22
Trees Palms & Oaks	11,000	268	22
Mulch	9,100	222	18
Management Services	6,240	152	13
Electricity	4,100	100	8
Insurance	3,200	78	7
Landscape Improvements	2,000	49	4
General Maintenance	2,000	49	4
Contingency Expense	1,658	40	3
Pest Control Bait Boxes	1,640	40	3
Office Expenses	1,350	33	3
Lighting / Fountain	1,000	24	2
Tax Prep	215	5	0.4
Annual Fees	62	2	0.1
	137,760	3,360	280

Low rainfall

*Extra watering provided during
September & October*



No Trucks Over 4-axles

Residents responsible for notifying truckers

As you are aware, Olde Cottage Lane is a narrow street with no turn around area for over-sized vehicles. The turn onto Olde Cottage from Pelican Nest Drive is very tight and over-size trucks have problems staying on the roadway. Particularly when delivering new roofing materials, large, over-size tractor-trailer trucks of over 4 axles have had problems turning onto Olde Cottage Lane.



There have been recurring incidents with these over-size trucks damaging the cement curbs, mailboxes, turf, irrigation equipment, electrical lighting and landscaping. These damages have added up to over \$5000 to The Cottages common areas. Unfortunately the Board and Resort Management have not been successful in getting the contractors to reimburse the HOA for the damages their delivery trucks have caused. Repairs to date have had to be paid out of the HOA budget.

The Board applied to the Pelican Landing Privacy Committee for permission to limit the size of vehicles entering Olde Cottage Lane and post a sign to that effect. Unfortunately, due to safety considerations of trucks unloading along Pelican Nest Drive, the Pelican Landing privacy committee denied our application for a sign.

Therefore the board is reminding residents that *Pelican Landing governing documents state that homeowners are responsible for their contractors and deliveries and are financially responsible for any damages done by their contractors to common property.*

All homeowners shall be responsible for notifying their contractors of The Cottages road truck size limitation. Over-size truck/ trailers of over 4 axles will have difficulty entering and exiting Olde Cottage Lane, there is NOT a turning radius for them in the cul-de-sacs, and they should make alternate plans when possible to deliver materials using a smaller vehicle into The Cottages.

If trucks cause damage the Cottages homeowner will be assessed the cost of repairs to the common areas. *Thank you in advance for your cooperation.*

The Board Of Directors

The Cottages at Pelican Landing Homeowners' Association

Please warn your roofing company

A few months ago a roofing truck damaged irrigation heads, landscape lights, cement curbs, and plants while delivering roofing tiles to a resident. The truck went over three feet off the road and up into the landscaped areas as the truck both entered and then exited the Cottages causing damage on both sides. These six-axle trucks have extreme difficulty navigating our tight turns. If you are having roof tiles delivered please warn your roofing company.





Fountain running again ⁸

After three months of working with several contractors Kevin Ingledue, Resort Management, finally got Architectural Fountains to replace the pump and control box to get the fountain running again.



Maintenance News



Joe Sidoti
Maintenance Committee

Gazebo pavers repaired

The paver walkway to the Gazebo required repair. The tree roots were causing upheaval. Joe Sidoti is shown here repairing the walkway to “Joe’s Gazebo” and saving the Cottages more money.



Gazebo power washed

Joe Sidoti & Sean O'Shea power wash Gazebo and paver walkway in preparation for upcoming socials.



Bring on the dirt and mold!



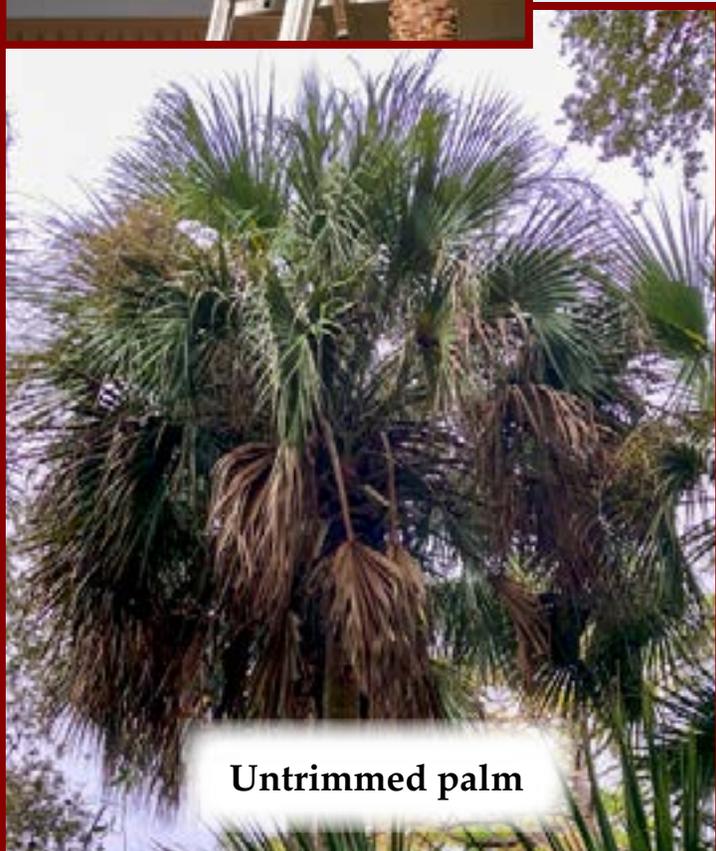
Palm trees trimmed

Green Acres has completed the annual trimming of the Cottages sable palm trees. Oaks and palms will be trimmed again in next year.



Steve Kubicsek

290
palms
were
trimmed



Untrimmed palm

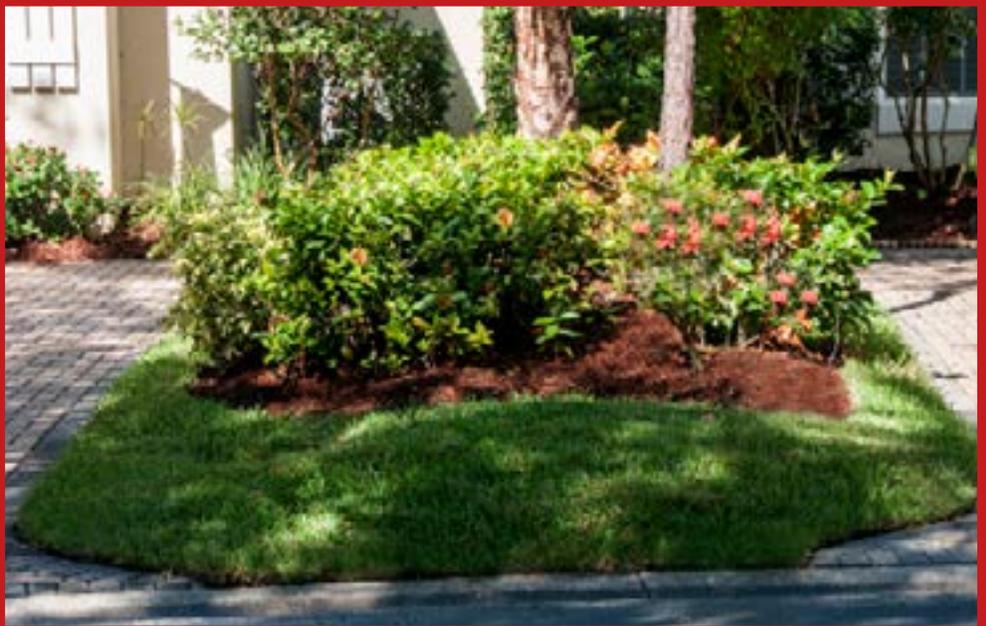


Trimmed palm

Mulch

On November 23rd Green Acres put down about 1600 bags of mulch in the common areas and the fronts of our 41 Cottages homes.

Steve Kubicsek indicated that any residents that wanted mulch put down in the backs and rears of homes at a later date should contact him. He will charge residents at the Cottages bulk rate of \$4.50 per bag installed.



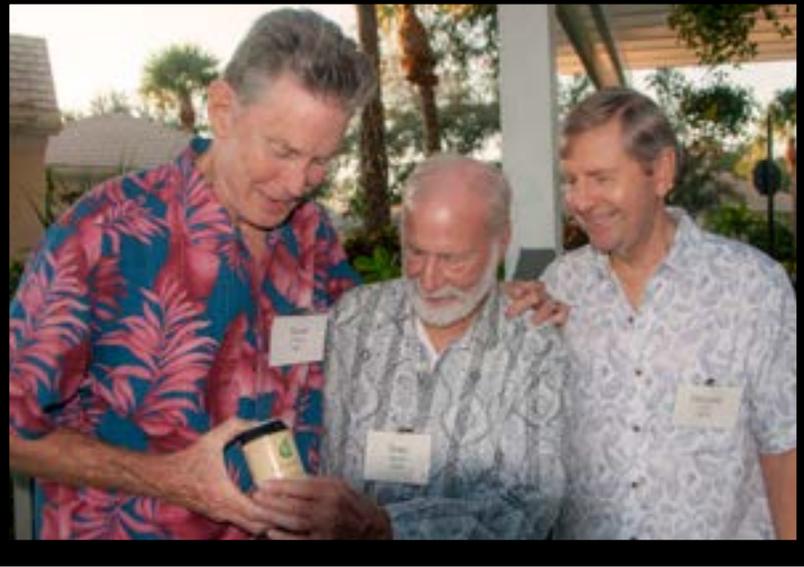
DUMPSTERS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Each year at this time, it's wise to make sure every resident is aware of holiday dates where vendors are not allowed to leave commercial equipment overnight. This includes POD storage units, dumpsters, trailers, permit boards, pallets of supplies such as roofing tiles, and portable toilets. The blackout dates are: November 22nd - December 2nd, and again from December 20th to January 6th. No work is allowed (gate guards will deny entry) on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Fall Social

Thirty residents attended the Cottages December Social. Great food, a chance to meet our neighbors and to enjoy a pleasant evening.





Fall Social



Sunrise over The Cottages



Check your smoke detectors

Ken Francese recently had the smoke detectors in his house replaced after learning that they should be replaced every 10 years. Many Cottages residents may still have the original smoke detectors and should consider having new detectors installed.



New landscaping coming



Pelican Landing has started a new landscaping project along Pelican's Nest Drive. The area shown here is the round-about island near the Kayak area where old landscaping was removed and new palms being installed.



The Eagles are back
at The Cottages



The eagles that nest every
year across from the
Cottages along Hurricane 12
are back for the 2019-20 season.



Annual Meeting

Wednesday Feb. 12, 2020
5:00 pm Community Center

Recap of 2019

Plans for 2020

Elections

Pizza social after meeting



A tropical beach scene at sunset. The sky is filled with colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The ocean is calm, reflecting the warm light of the setting sun. In the foreground, several palm trees are silhouetted against the water. A few people are visible on the beach, also silhouetted. The overall mood is peaceful and festive.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS