

The Cottages



We miss you.....
Come back soon!

Newsletter
Summer 2017

President's Message

Odds and Ends from The Cottages



Joanna Wragg
President

Summer has arrived! How do we know? By the rains that broke the drought, for sure. Now we wait to see how much rain, whether there are any serious storms, etc., but the rain is more than welcome and completes the natural weather cycle here. As the old timers like to say, "South Florida gets an average annual rainfall of 60 inches, but there are no average years." That's about right!

Meanwhile....we hope to finish the upgrade of the east-end cul-de-sac by adding a saw palmetto there to echo the color scheme of the big Bismark palm at the west end. The east island kept its oak tree and so cannot accommodate another big tree, but the addition of a silvery-toned palmetto will complete the look nicely. Further, now that the drought has broken Steve will be adding some summer flower baskets at the gazebo.

Planning is under way for the relandscaping of the gazebo area, which we hope to execute later in the year, budget permitting.

By now you all have probably heard from Hotwire that they are ready to do the individual home installations in The Cottages. (See article below for contact details.) If you or your home watch team can devote a day to this in July or August, that's to the good. Otherwise, call them about a month before you want to do your installation in the fall to schedule. Our Comcast contract expires at the end of the year; service should continue until then or until your home is converted to Hotwire.

Finally, as you heard earlier, some of our pools are suffering from phosphate, possible blowing in from the golf course replanting. Between the phosphate and the heavy rains that dilute the chlorine treatments, a pool can go bad in a hurry at this time of year. It is important to have your home watch keep an eye on your pool and contact Jackson Pools ASAP if they see a problem.

To those who are holding the fort for the summer on Olde Cottage Lane, We thank you!
To those who are traveling, Stay Safe and Come Back Soon!

See y'all in the fall!

REMINDER ALERT!

Sod replacement

Now that the drought has broken and owners again will be thinking about landscaping enhancements, please remember that maintaining and/or replacing the grass in front of each home is the responsibility of the owner. Newer owners may recall that the Association did some sod replacements last year when the irrigation system was in such bad place, but that was a one-off . Going forward, sod responsibility reverts to individual.



Hotwire Update



Hotwire installations are starting in the Cottages on July 1st. Call the Hotwire Launch Department @ **239-217-3262** to schedule the installation for your home. Plan on this taking 9:00 to 5:00 pm. If you are north for the summer months call to schedule an installation time for when you return to the Cottages. When your service is converted to Hotwire, the Comcast equipment in your home will need to be returned to the Comcast to avoid further rental charges. You can return your equipment to a Comcast office (e.g. near Trader Joe's on US 41). Or you can take it to UPS in Pelican Landing Shops, where they assure me they will provide a detailed receipt with all serial numbers, etc, and will return in to Comcast **AT NO CHARGE TO THE CUSTOMER**. Equipment includes DVRs, HD boxes, remotes, modems; whatever Hotwire disconnects and replaces. We would appreciate a report on how all this works as soon as someone has actual experience doing it.

Landscaping News

Delay Plantings



Kiki Scovel

Steve Kubicek of Green Acres has advised all residents to delay new plantings until drought conditions are lifted. It is not possible to establish new plants under the current water restrictions. PLCA approved landscape plans can be delayed and residents will not be cited for dead grass until water conditions have improved. We should be close to restrictions being lifted with all of the recent rain.

Oak Tree to be Replaced at 3628

A mature Live Oak will be replaced at 3628 Olde Cottage. Live Oaks are a protected species and require a landscape plan and permissions from both Cottages HOA and PLCA to be removed. The oak in this situation was dead so removal and re-planting of a new Live Oak was approved. PLCA required the replacement to be at least 10-ft in height. The Cottages is considered a parcel community. This means our streetscape must be uniform and any changes to landscaping require PLCA approval. Our approved streetscape is Live Oak canopy trees. This canopy is what gives The Cottages its charming



Steve Kubicek
Green Acres

look and sets us apart from other neighborhoods in Pelican Landing.



East Island Improvements

The East side island was re-landscaped with the addition of Bird of Paradise, Foxtail Fern, Purple Crinum Lily, and Arbutus 'Dazzle'. A silver palmetto will be added when conditions allow.

Jackson assigns new service technician



Jackson Pools has assigned Luke to be the Cottages new pool service technician. Luke has 5 years of experience with Jackson and has spent a lot of extra effort over the last three weeks getting our pool chemicals back into balance. Many of our pools have experienced high levels of phosphates which promote algae growth. He has checked our



Bonita Springs tap water that we use to fill our pools periodically and found that it measures high in phosphates. This adds to the chemical problems caused by the lake and golf course.

Algae Attack !!

Algae Growth:

Summer winds & rain bring algae conditions conditions to our pools in just a few days. As you may remember last summer many of the Cottages pools had problems with algae growth. We believe that many of these problems were being caused by phosphates being carried by summer winds and rain from the golf course into our pools. High phosphate levels provide conditions that permit algae to quickly grow. Jackson Pools may clean a pool on Friday and a storm can come through on Saturday and drop rain containing contaminates into that pool.



Algae can start growing and by Tuesday the pool may be turning green. Catching algae growth early is important because the later stages become much more difficult to clean and remove from the pool.

Home Watch Help:

Monitoring pools for algae can be troublesome for the majority of our Cottages residents that spend the summer months at northern locations. We recommend that residents home watch services regularly check their pools for algae. Jackson can clean our pools and check chemical levels but a day or two later algae can still start to grow. If not detected early the algae condition can be troublesome to remove.

Website News

Cottages neighbors recommend.....

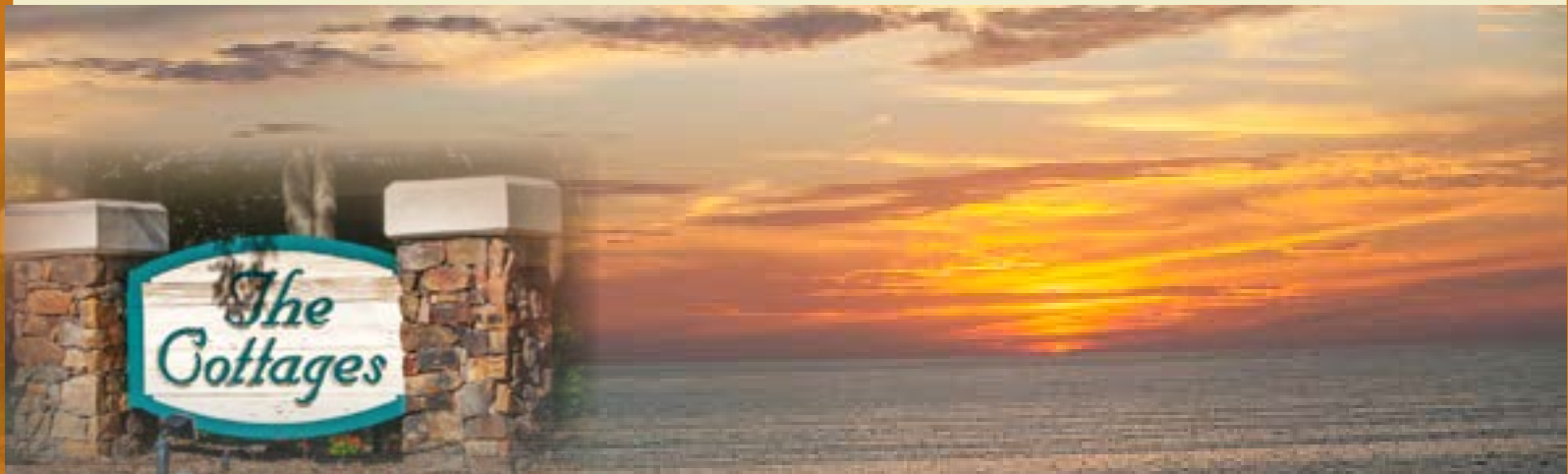
Looking for a local business to provide needed services can be daunting whether you are new to the area or have been around awhile. The Cottages now has a list of service providers that your neighbors have used and found satisfactory. If you have a provider that you would like to recommend for outstanding service and value please email their business information to webmaster, Kiki Scovel, cottagespl@gmail.com . The list is available on the website at:

www.cottagespl.org/services

*And always do your own due diligence
when choosing a service provider!*



Kiki Scovel
Webmaster



Maintenance News

Power washing planned for entryway



Joe Sidoti
Maintenance Committee

The Cottages' entry pavers have become dirty after many years of traffic and no cleaning. Power washing and sealing is planned for late October after the rainy season. One side of the entry will need to be closed off for traffic for a period of time.



Irrigation News

Some Good News! & some not so good news

The following email was received from Paul Kemp, Irrigation Manager Bay Creek CDD:

"The Bay Creek District seeks to begin supplementing it's irrigation water with reclaimed water sometime this summer. There will be no change in the monthly water allocation and the price will increase per 1000 gallons from \$0.53 to \$ 0.83. You might consider increasing your water budget dollars by 60% minimum."



This means that:

1. **Neutral** - We will still be **limited to the 9000 gallons** of irrigation water per month per Cottages home "including common areas"
2. **Negative** - Water **costs will increase (60%)**
3. **Positive** - Water **quality will be better** and we will (probably) not have as many strict water limitations and pump shutoffs during droughts like the ones recently experienced.

Drought takes its toll but, impact on Cottages not as severe

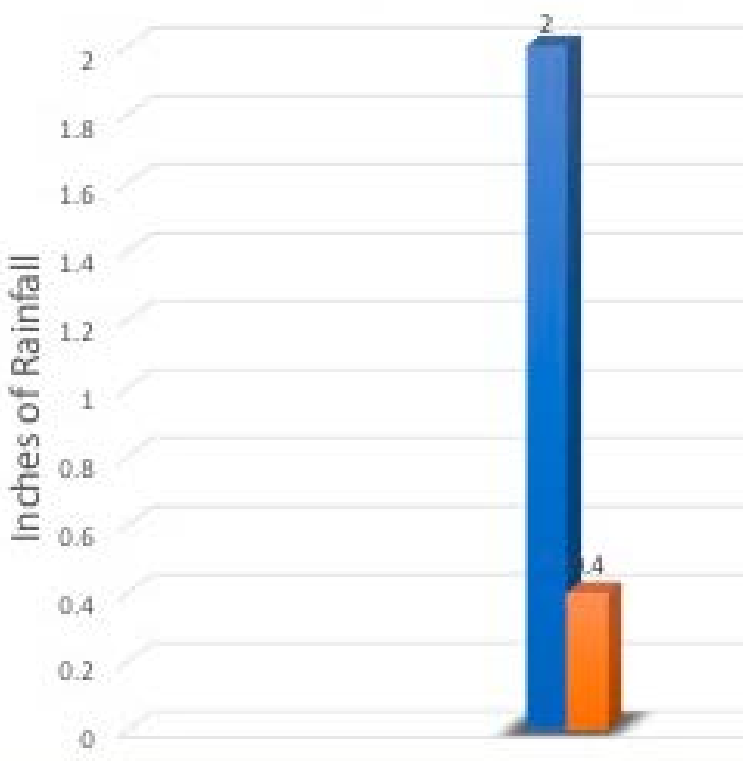
Dan Geist has done an excellent job in helping the Cottages landscaping to survive during this very severe drought. Dan continually modified our watering schedules to maximize our water pressures during periods of low pressure. We had to increase our water usage at times to accommodate the installation of new landscaping by residents. System equipment has been monitored and repaired as necessary.

It appears that compared to many landscaping areas within Pelican Landing we may have weathered the drought better than most during the record lack of rain. Some grass areas were stressed and some plants may need to be replaced, but in general our landscaping still looks fairly green.



Dan Geist
Bradford Solutions

Average Dry Season Rainfall compared to Recent Dry Season Draught



Historical average rainfall for our dry seasons from November thru March is 2.0 inches of rain per month. The average rainfall during this past dry season "drought" was only a trace 0.4 inches per month! June however started off this rainy season with a bang with over 12 inches of rain in the first 14 days.



No rain!!

Lake levels were extremely low



Water level dropped during drought

Rain!!



Heavy rains increased water levels this amount in 2 weeks

Around the neighborhood

Baby gator knocks on door at 3679



The Lowe's heard a knocking on the side door only to find a baby gator about 30 inches long that had traveled up from the Cottages lake to pay a friendly visit.



Some "friends" visit the Cottages





*Osprey family
near Cottages*



New landscaping installed

Tom and Judy Maish at 3629 recently upgraded their landscaping. Green Acres did the installation and Dale did the architecture working with Steve Kucicsek.



Cottages Board



Joanna Wragg
President/
Landscaping



Joe Sidoti
Secretary/
Maintenance



Dennis Lowe
Treasurer/
Newsletter



Kris Caldwell
Resort Management

Happy Summer!