

# *The Cottages*



*Newsletter*  
*Summer 2020*



Kiki Scovel  
President

## President's Message

**S**ummer rains have started and growing season has begun! With the return of rain and humidity we also enter hurricane season. Despite what the weather gurus say, we can never predict what a Florida hurricane season will bring us.

**HAVE A PLAN** Hopefully one we will not need!

The Cottages Board has made prior arrangements with Green Acres for storm clean-up as well as maintaining a robust storm reserve fund. The Cottages is in Hurricane Zone B at approximately 13 feet of elevation. Lee County has helpful hurricane planning information at:

<http://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan>

**GOOD NEWS** Our gazebo is now re-opened for use by residents! It has been tough on all of us as one amenity and business after another shut down in response to Covid-19 so the return to normalcy is very welcome. We all have learned to maintain our social distance over the past 3 months, so please continue to do so while visiting the gazebo. Maybe we will be able to host our welcome back social at the gazebo next Fall? Keep your fingers crossed...

**TREE TRIMMING** Be prepared for the sound of wood chippers and chain saws! Soto Tree will be trimming and shaping the oak trees throughout the neighborhood. Oak trees are scheduled every other year at the start of hurricane season. Soto does not do the CDD oaks along Pelican Nest Drive.

**ROAD WORK** *Joe Sidoti is supervising the re-surfacing of our street in August. If you will be here in August, please pay special attention to the notice later in this Newsletter. To do a quality re-surface requires closing half of the road to all vehicles for a short time. Residents will need to park their cars on the opposite side and walk along the front yards to their homes. You will be notified well ahead of time so the inconvenience is minimized. It will be a welcome upgrade to our neighborhood to have a nice new street!*

**WELCOME** *The Cottages welcomes its newest residents Roberta and Patrick Szmyt at 3660.*

*Travel may be somewhat restricted this summer, but as you undertake your summer excursions I wish you good health and fun times!*

*Kiki Scovel*





# Landscaping News

## *New entry sod*

Special thanks to Steve Kubicek of Green Acres for donating new entry sod and flowers.





# *Green Acres donates flowers*



Steve Kubicsek  
President, Green Acres



*Gazebo hanging plants*



*Mailbox flowers*







## *Critter Control baits traps, removes toads*

Critter control (239) 731-6255) recently removed 12 cane toads from Cottages properties while filling the rat bait stations. The cane toad (also known as the bufo, giant or marine toad) is a large, nonnative amphibian that has been introduced into Florida. Cane toads are considered an invasive species and are *poisonous*



*to most animals that try to bite or consume them.* The FWC encourages landowners to kill cane toads on their own property whenever possible.



# Eagles

The Cottages eagles did not have a successful nesting this year. Late in March they had abandoned the nest area, although they were still seen flying nearby. As shown below they did return briefly to take a bath in the water along the Cottages. The pine tree that holds the nest has died, but hopefully that will not deter them from coming back to the Cottages next season. Last year they raised two eaglets, one of which is shown below.





# *Duck families take a walk*



## *Ducklings behind Cottages*

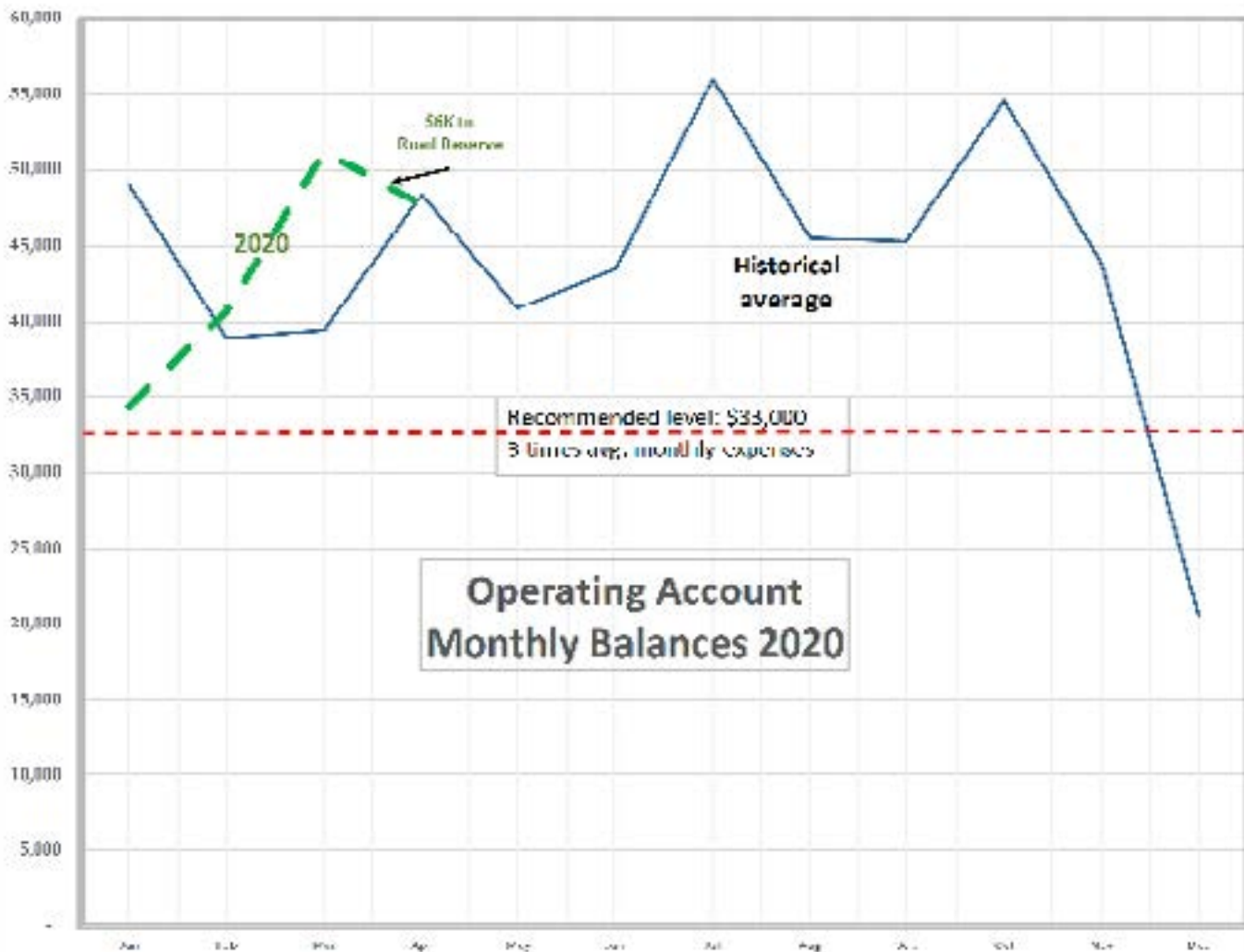


# Finances



Dennis Lowe  
Treasurer

Our overall budget is on track after 4 months through April. This chart shows our operating account. We are currently tracking the 5 year historical average balance. In the early months we run above the recommended balance, but we have several one time large expenses like mulch application and tree trimming that lower the balance at year end. The up and down fluctuations are caused by expenses going out and quarterly fees going into the account.





## Around the Neighborhood

*Great job!!*

**P**atti and Sean at 3687 have worked hard in collecting food donations for those in need during the Corona virus pandemic.



**HIGH**

**ANXIETY**

*Hurricane season is approaching*



***Summer Plans:*** Please let the Board know if you plan to be in the Cottages during this summer hurricane season. Joanna Wragg, Kim Prushnak and Dennis Lowe indicated plans to stay. This information could be useful in emergency situations.



Please send an email indicating your plans to:  
**YES** (will be here) or **NO**:

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

***Storm Drains:*** Check any storm drains you may have on your property for blockage that could cause flooding.

***Hurricane Clean-up:*** We have asked Steve Kubicsek, Green Acres, to put the Cottages up on the Cottages clean up priority list.

# Prepare for the storm

## *Develop an emergency plan:*

What do I need to do to secure my home & car?

Where will I stay during the hurricane?

Where will my pets stay?

Where in my home will I ride out the storm?

What are the evacuation routes if I plan to leave?

Prepare to be self-sufficient for up to 14 days  
without running water or electricity.

- Photograph or video your home for insurance purposes
- Update phone number & email address on your FPL account
- Pay attention to instructions from public officials and the media
- Gather important documents, store in a waterproof container
- Purchase bottled water. American Red Cross recommends at least one gallon of drinking water per person per day
- Gather supplies such as: non-perishable food, medications and personal hygiene supplies, trash bags, paper towels, clothing, bedding & entertainment items
- Check radio, flashlights and batteries
- Obtain cash in case banks are closed and ATMs are not working
- Fill up your car with gas; fill propane tanks for grill cooking
- Charge your phone and obtain a car charger
- Prepare for loss of running water & electricity: turn refrigerators to coldest settings; make blocks of ice & store in coolers
- Sanitize bathtub and fill with water
- Store objects from yard inside; fasten doors and windows
- Cover valuables & furniture with plastic & move from windows
- Unplug any non-essential electrical equipment, including pool

For more storm and safety tips [www.FPL.com/storm](http://www.FPL.com/storm)



## *Time running out*



**T**ime is running out to file a Hurricane Irma insurance claim. It is important to file a claim for any damage before **September 9, 2020**. *Typically*, the deadline for filing an insurance claim is three years from the time of the damage. However, policies can vary, so check with your insurance company.



Kiki Scovel  
Webmaster

## *Cottages Web News*

<https://cottagespl.org>

Click this link

What are *YOU* looking for...

- **Roof Tile Specs**
- **DRC Form**
- **Cottages Contract Vendors**
- **Irrigation Schedules**
- **Lawn Maintenance Details**
- **HOA Documents**
- **Board Minutes**
- **Newsletters**

The Cottages website has all this and more.

# *Oaks to be trimmed in June*

Soto Tree Service will trim our 56 oak trees in June before hurricane season.



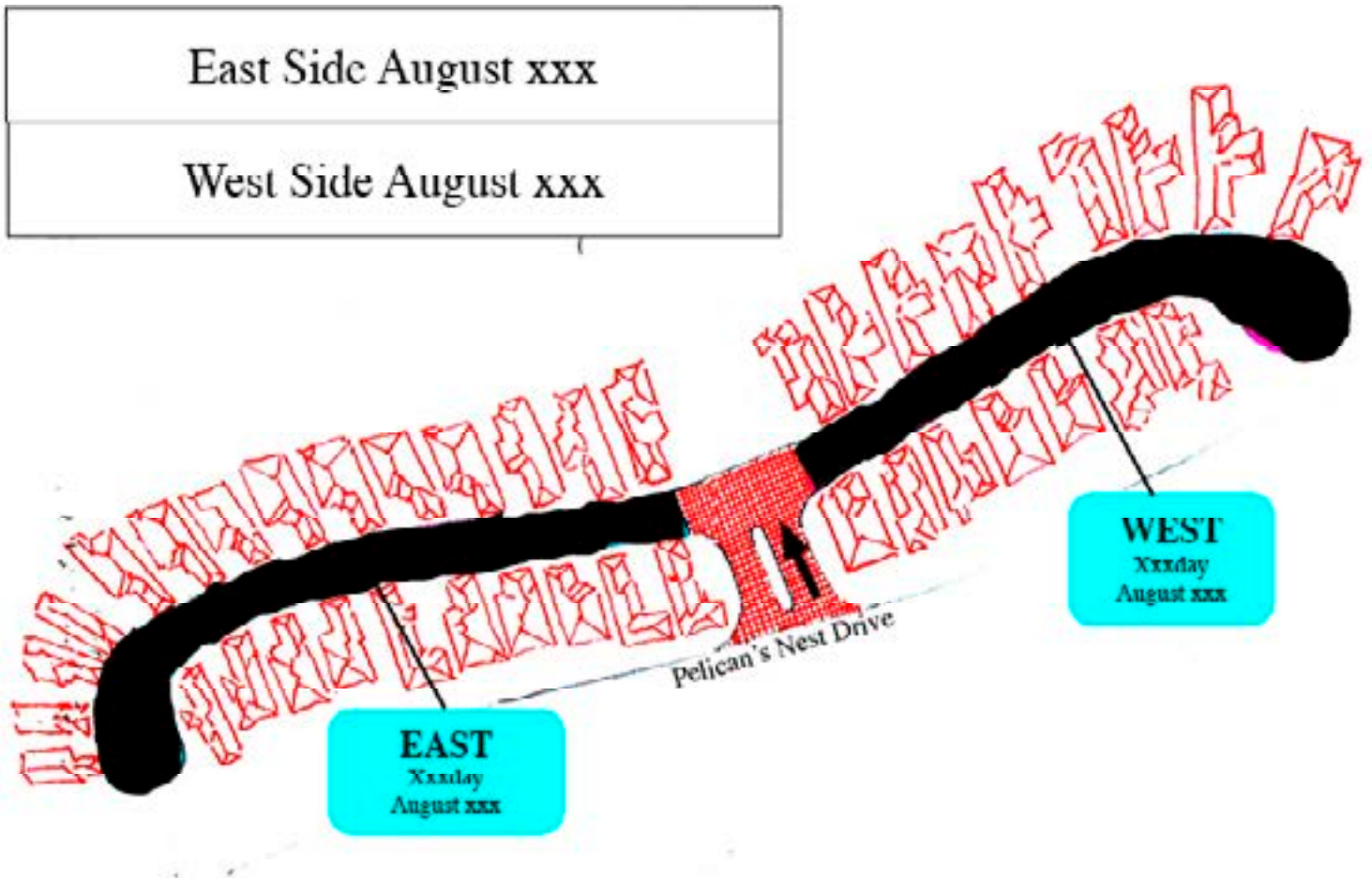


## Road to be resurfaced

*Olde Cottage Lane will be resurfaced (1.5") in August when the fewest residents are in The Cottages. Proposals were obtained from three contractors and SPS Seaton Paving was awarded the contract. The cost will be about \$33,000 and will be funded from our Roads Reserves account. The next time repairs are required, probably about 15 years, the road will need to be milled and all new asphalt applied. The future cost of this will be about \$60,000 and we will need to fund our Reserves.*



The Cottages at Pelican Landing  
2020 Re-surface of Old Cottage Lane



Note: During the re-surfacing you will not be able to drive on your side of the street (East or West). You will need to make arrangements for parking your vehicle on the other end (probably 1 day) until the new pavement hardens. More details to follow when the schedule dates firm up.

*Happy Independence Day*

*4th of July*





# *Cottages Board*



Kiki Scovel  
President



Joe Sidoti  
Secretary



Dennis Lowe  
Treasurer



Kevin Ingledue  
Property Manager



Happy Summer!