

*Newsletter*  
*Summer 2016*





## Hello, Fellow Cottagers!



**Joanna Wragg**  
President /  
Landscaping

**B**ig doings in The Cottages this quarter! Most recently, a new layer of blacktop makes our road look brand new! Many thanks to those in residence for handling the inconvenience with grace and to board member Joe Sidoti for bird-dogging that project.

In the weeks before Easter you probably saw the new landscaping in our entry island but may not have seen the new lighting that now has completed that area. The lighted canopy of oak trees really is spectacular, and the rare Old Man Palm at the interior end of the island is now lighted at night, to dramatic effect. Being low-voltage LEDs, the new lights are cool, safe, and use only a fraction of the electricity of their predecessors. (The vendor, Lightscares, is offering a discount to individual Cottages owners for the rest of this year...) When the budget permits, the landscape & lighting scheme will be extended to the sides of the entry, then to the area around the gazebo and finally to the cul-de-sacs.

Speaking of the budget, a major priority this year is to reduce our spending on mulch, which, at \$14,400 every year, is the largest single item in our landscape-maintenance budget. As much as half of this cost could be redirected toward actual common-area enhancements such as adding plants, replacing aging shrubs, and additional lighting.

Consequently, the board in June adopted the goal of encouraging a more beautiful and ecologically healthy community with more ornamentals such as those planted this year in our entrance island. There are many plants that are beautiful, drought-resistant, and salt-tolerant, thus generally requiring minimum maintenance. These bushes and ground covers can enhance our community and individual properties for years to come and are far more desirable than mulch that costs \$4 per bag and must be applied every year!

Consequently, beginning in October, mulch will be applied at HOA expense according to these new guidelines:

- 1) Mulch will be restricted to the common areas and streetscape (public/front yard) areas. Side yards behind the gate or fencing, as well as the back yards, will be the responsibility of the individual owner. If you require mulch in these areas, please let Green Acres know and they will apply it for you when the general application is done. For seldom-used side yards, one-time "hardscape" treatment of pavers and/or rocks is highly recommended and can be supplied by Green Acres, Driftwood or many other vendors.
- 2) On front yards, mulch will be applied as usual but should be minimized. For example, any patch of bare mulch that is more than 18 inches or 2 feet square is calling out for ornamental plants, not mulch! Green Acres' Steve Kubiecsek works with the landscape committee and will be happy to recommend additional plants to fill in areas that have become too sparse.
- 3) It's also a good idea to look for opportunities to reduce the total amount of sod on each property. There is no requirement from Pelican Landing to have any specific amount of grass along the street, and we've all had the frustrating experience of nursing our turf through the hot, dry months of March, April and May. Replacing some of your grass with another row of plants will almost certainly cost less over time. In coming months the HOA will take the next step in replacing sod in some yards that was irreparably damaged last year by the irrigation failures. However, in general sod is a homeowner responsibility.

*As we move forward together on all these fronts, we hope that by next Season we'll find a greatly enhanced look for The Cottages!*



# Cottages new entryway plants







Green Acres' Steve Kubicsek and his crew worked hand-in-hand with Joanna Wragg and the Landscaping Committee to enhance the entrance median to the Cottages.







*Landscape lighting  
adds "drama" to  
the new entryway  
landscaping*



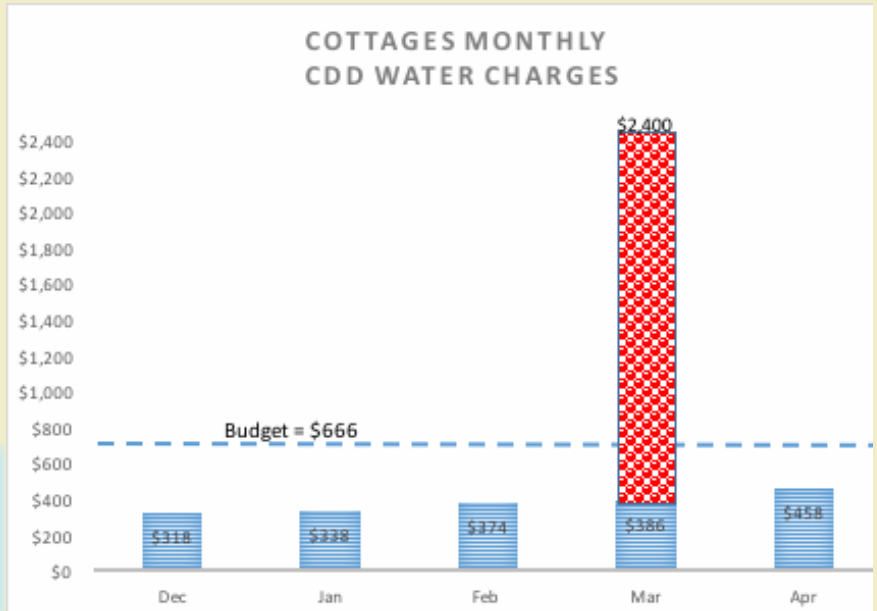
# Irrigation News



Dan Geist  
President  
Bradford Solutions

## High water usage charge reduced by \$2,008

Dan Geist has been a tremendous help in getting an extremely high water usage invoice from CDD adjusted. We were charged \$2,426 for a March usage of 779,000 gallons whereas our average monthly charge has been \$372 per month for a usage of 441,000 gallons. Although the meter reading reflected the high usage no one could explain how the Cottages could have used a 77% increase in one month. Possibilities such as a faulty meter, unseen leaks, timer clocks and watering schedules were checked and double checked. After many discussions and exhaustive documentation CDD finally reduced the charge by \$2008 from \$2,394 to \$386. The chart here illustrates our monthly charges and the March reduction. At this point the reason for the high meter reading remains unexplained.



*Please report any leaks or watering observed during the day ASAP to*  
**Kris: (239) 649-5526**  
**Dan: (239) 287-2664**

## Cottages Irrigation Watering Schedules

Start times may fluctuate as watering times increase or decrease to accommodate seasonal program adjustments.

		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
WEST	ODD Numbers	12:00 AM - 3:45 AM			12:00 AM - 3:45 AM	
	EVEN Numbers		12:00 AM - 2:00 AM			12:00 AM - 2:00 AM
EAST	ODD Numbers	12:00 AM - 6:50 AM			12:00 AM - 6:50 AM	
	EVEN Numbers		12:00 AM - 4:50 AM			12:00 AM - 4:50 AM

see Cottages website for specific residence watering time

[www.cottagespl.org](http://www.cottagespl.org)

# Website News

## *The Cottages is on the web!*



Kiki Scovel

Webmaster

In April all Cottages residents should have received the email announcing our new website. The website will help keep residents up-to-date on what is happening around The Cottages and keep 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. In addition to the latest announcements about happenings in The Cottages you can find contact information for our service providers, utilities, trash, weekly service schedules, and more. You can also read the archive of Cottages Newsletters so wonderfully edited by Dennis Lowe. They are a wealth of important information and as a bonus include some wonderful photography from around the neighborhood.

You will note there is a private page for residents only. A login is required to access the "For Residents" page. Information on accessing the page with the password was sent in the email. If you did not receive an email please notify me at [cottagespl@gmail.com](mailto:cottagespl@gmail.com) and I will be happy to send you the password.

The webpage is an evolving entity, and we have already added Irrigation 101 and Landscape 101 with more detailed information on those services, as well as updates on the road sealing and trim painting. I hope you find the webpage helpful and enjoyable to use. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions you may have.

Whether your summer plans are here in our beautiful neighborhood or elsewhere, I hope they are enjoyable and interesting!

Kiki Scovel contact me at: [cottagespl@gmail.com](mailto:cottagespl@gmail.com)

What you need to know... *Web address:*

<http://www.cottagespl.com>

A photograph of a stone pillar sign for 'The Cottages' set against a sunset background. The sign is white with a teal border and the words 'The Cottages' in a cursive font.

The  
Cottages



## *Cottages website experiences high traffic!*

*1st day: 159 visitors May - 806 visits*

The roll out of the Cottages website in May was very successful. Residents were notified by email which included the web address and password for the private page. Several complimentary emails were received. Only 1 resident had trouble using the password sign-in, but that was due to "operator error" and was quickly resolved. Web traffic has been much more than expected considering we only have 41 homes. Jeremy Kerans updated The Cottages link on the PLCA Neighborhoods page so it connects directly to the Cottages webpage. A link is also on our Facebook page. If you receive an email regarding problems/suggestions with the website (access, password problems, missing / non-working links) please forward to Kiki.

### **Recent adds/ updates:**

- paving
- holiday trash pickup
- irrigation schedule
- landscape matrix
- board meeting minutes
- board agenda
- Lightscares information.

### **Future plans:**

- **On-line resident directory**--to respect resident privacy it would be opt-in and residents would specify the email to use for this purpose.
- **Investigate security** for directory information.
- **Expand local links.**

### **Statistics:**

- Month of May Total Visits **806**
- Busiest day was Day 1 with **159** visitors

### **Top 5 Locations (where are visitors from?) :**

- 33% San Jose
- 11% Mountain View
- 6% Bonita Springs
- 4% Marietta
- 43% Other

### **Top Referrers (how do visitors get here?) :**

- 50% pelican landing.org
- 33% facebook.com
- 17% earthlink.net

## Two oak trees to be removed

**Note to residents:** At the request of the owners at 3691 and 3660, we have requested a permit to remove one oak tree from each of their properties. Because these two properties both have more than one oak on site the trees are unnaturally crowded and consequently are not doing well. The removal should begin this summer, as soon as the permits are issued. Live oaks are a protected native species that may not be removed without a permit.



## Maintenance News

### *Painting delayed to October*



Joe Sidoti  
Secretary /

Painting of the Cottages house trim has been delayed until October. Elias Brothers would not have been able to start painting for another month and we would then be into the rainy season. A decision was made to delay the project.



### *Roof Tile Repairs*

The Pelican Landing Design Review and Standards Committees request that when you need to have repairs made to your roof, please use roof tiles that match your existing roof tiles. Other residents have to look at your homes and it is very unsightly to have mismatched roof tiles. Thank you for your cooperation.

The original Cottages roof tiles are no longer manufactured. Tom Maish and Janine Barnicke did considerable searching for a replacement tile that would match the existing Cottages tiles. This was being done in anticipation of residents needing new roofs in the next several years. However, a search for a close match for both color and tile style was very difficult. The closest match that could be found was the new tile that the Scovel's (3691) used on an entire new roof. This tile is close, but the match is not exact. If broken tiles are being replaced and the match is too far off, an option might be to remove an existing tile from an obscure area and place the old tile in the more visible location. Kiki Scovel could give you the name of the contractor that installed their entire roof.



The new tile specifications are:

Entegra # F-CDTN-CD-Y-SL-15(1) Cedar Tan, Black & Brown Antique



## Sealcoating of Olde Cottage Lane



After a rain delay Olde Cottage Lane has finally received a new top coating. The road contractor indicated that our road is in good shape structurally and should be good for quite a few years. Seal coating will need to be repeated every several years to provide a fresh look.

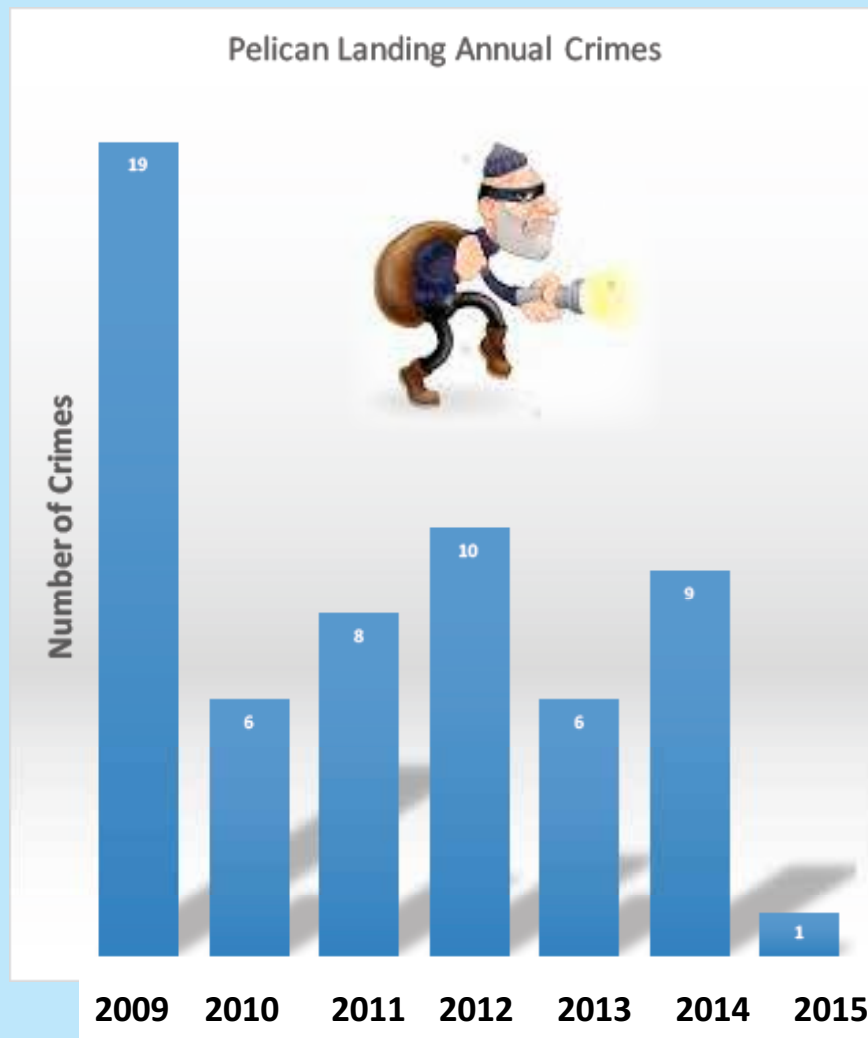




# Pelican Landing Crime

Increased attention to security may be working

Pelican Landing Annual Crimes					
	Burglary	Theft	Other	Total	Homes
2009	5	13	1	19	
2010	3	2	1	6	
2011	4	1	3	8	
2012	7	2	1	10	3,097
2013	2	3	1	6	3,160
2014	2	2	5	9	3,159
2015	1	0	0	1	3,235





# Resort Management



**Kris Caldwell**  
Resort Management

**Mailbox status:** We have received a quote from **ASAP Mailbox** for 41 homes of approximately \$255 per mailbox. This would include:

- Remove existing mailboxes and attach 2 new Port Royal mailboxes onto existing bracket/post. Mailboxes are made of cast aluminum and are painted with a gloss black powder coated finish. Red cast aluminum flag included. All hardware used will be stainless steel and painted to match the mailboxes.
- Prep existing post bracket and address plaque by wire brushing any loose paint. Prime any bare spots and apply an exterior Rustoleum spray paint to match new mailboxes.

- Remove address numbers from address plaque and apply new vinyl numbers (customer's choice of color and font). We are also getting mailbox styles, installation and pricing information from **Lykins-Signtec**, the contractor that has installed Pelican Landing mailboxes in the past. Due to all of the activity going on this year any significant action on the mailbox project will probably be put off until next year.

**Bulletin Board:** A bulletin board has been installed at the entrance of the Gazebo to post meeting notices and any other relevant information. Shown below is Joe Sidoti installing the bulletin board. *Thanks Joe!*



Kris can be contacted at: [kcaldwell@resortgroupinc.com](mailto:kcaldwell@resortgroupinc.com) (239) 649-5526





The Social Committee will be planning activities for the fall season.

## 2016 Cottages Board



**Joanna Wragg**  
President/  
Landscaping



**Joe Sidoti**  
Secretary/  
Maintenance



**Dennis Lowe**  
Treasurer/  
Newsletter



**Kris Caldwell**  
Resort Management



## Cottages Landscaping Schedule

## Green Acres Lawn & Landscape Maintenance

2016	Off peak grow			Peak Grow Season								Dec
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	
<b>Turf</b>												
<b>Mowing &amp; debris removal</b>	every other week during dry season; crew shall perform other duties			every week during summer months								
<b>Trim</b>												
<b>Edging &amp; debris removal</b>												
<b>Pre-emergent Weed control</b>	Weekly inspections for: Insects, fungus, weeds and dry areas. Crew foreman shall be responsibility to notify the Pest Control department for proper treatment; Bradford Solutions will be notified for irrigation problems.											
<b>Post-emergent Weed control</b>												
<b>Disease control (as needed)</b>												
<b>Insect control<sup>2</sup> (as needed)</b>												
<b>Fertilizer</b>												

Shrub & Bed Maintenance	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Trim / prune</b>	Selective pruning of plants performed on certain species not aggressive growers; as necessary to maintain proper look & height each plant requires. Hedge trimming done as required.											
<b>Weed</b>												
<b>Fertilization</b>	2 applications per year											
<b>Pre-emergent Weed control</b>	as needed											
<b>Post-emergent Weed control</b>												
<b>Disease control (as needed)</b>												
<b>Insect control (as needed)</b>												
<b>Tree Maintenance</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Fertilization</b>	2 applications per year											
<b>Disease control (as needed)</b>	as needed											
<b>Insect control (as needed)</b>	as needed											
<b>Palm trimming<sup>1</sup></b>											above 12' Oct/Nov	
<b>Oak hazard trimming<sup>1</sup></b>									above 12' Oct/Nov every other yr			
<b>Irrigation<sup>3</sup></b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Wet checks Inspection</b>	Bradford Solutions Irrigation - wet checks performed on East side and West side on alternating months. Inspection, adjustments & repairs as necessary.											
<b>Adjustments</b>												
<b>Inspect controller &amp; adjust</b>												
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Mulch</b>											usually done Oct/Nov	
<b>Lanais (weed spray only)<sup>4</sup></b>	Light trimming and spraying for weeds in lanais periodically as needed											
<b>Leaf cleanup</b>	as needed											

### Notes:

Palms not exceeding 12' of hardwood shall have brown fronds & seed pods removed.

Excludes Grub control, Ficus Whitefly & Spiraling Whitefly (\$1,500 per treatment)

Bradford Solutions: Repairs: \$60/hr for outside of contract work plus materials cost

Extra work: contractor shall furnish estimate; contractor personnel charged out at labor rate of \$40/hr. plus material

Owners are responsible for:

Removal and replacement of dead or diseased trees, shrubs, plants, etc.

Periodic sod replacement of all turf on their property, front, back and sides

Power washing of roofs, homes (trim & body) and driveways

Care and feeding of all plants, trees and shrubs inside of lanais not done by Green Acres

Driveway pavers that are heaving due to tree roots