



*Cottages
Newsletter
Winter 2017*

President's Message

2016 was an eventful year



Joanna Wragg
President

This edition of your Newsletter is chock full: Kudos to Dennis Lowe, our Treasurer and Newsletter editor! He does a great job of gathering information for all our owners as well as crunching numbers to keep us on track.

Thank You also to Fred & Jane Jaeckle for searching out a solution to the low-pool-water issue. Plumbing Technician Kim Walker of Better Service/Southeast was very creative in developing the solution and sensitive in pricing it to match the configuration of our various house plans. He will be happy to provide a no-obligation estimate for installing a water line and hose bib that can stay live when the water to the house is turned off. The cost varies according to the configuration (mine was \$350). Kim Walker can be reached at 239-337-7660, and I have a stack of his cards if anyone would like one.

Further, we could not have made the progress we have this year without board member Joe Sidoti, himself a contractor, who was able to negotiate work on resealing the road, painting our homes and rebuilding our gazebo deck. He also directly supervised these projects, which was invaluable. The savings Joe achieved have been put back into enhancing our community, for which we all owe him a debt of Thanks!

Looking back over this most eventful year, I am grateful for the support and cooperation of our Cottages residents. Everything that has been accomplished, from launching the web site (thank you, Kiki Scovel!) to redoing the entry island, redecking the gazebo, resealing the pavement, repainting, monitoring the irrigation, relandscaping the west-end cul-de-sac, enhancing the landscaping on individual properties and decorating for Christmas (Jerry & Ruth again!) in the common area and at our homes, all have involved the attention of many residents lending a hand and supporting the work. It truly has been a community effort on behalf of our special community. New mailboxes are planned for early next year.

Other plans for next year are in the works, with some to be discussed at the annual meeting Feb. 9, at 4 pm at the PLCC. I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Meanwhile, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Safe Travels to everyone!



Solution for low pool water levels

Fred & Jane Jaeckle (3660) and Otis & Joanna Wragg (3664) have found a solution to the problem of controlling pool water levels while they are not at the Cottages. They had a plumber install a water line (see contact info below), before the main house water shutoff, running back to the pool. The cost was \$5 per foot and the Wragg's cost was \$350. Many homes at the Cottages have longer distances and the cost might range between \$500 - \$600.

A water timer installed to the new hose bib at the end of the new line can be used by Jackson Pools or the home watch person to raise the water to the proper levels. With this system the water going to the house can be shut off while you are gone and the pool can still be filled with water.



Note: This plumber info is provided for informational purposes. The Cottages Board has no first hand knowledge relative to the quality of workmanship or cost/value. As always residents would be wise to get several estimates for comparison.



Hose timer (approx. \$30)

The hose timer hooks to the hose bib installed as described above. When water is needed, the timer is turned on for a selected amount of time. If the hose timer is not used with the solution above, a **heavy-duty, reinforced garden hose is required**. House water needs to be turned on for pool cleaners to set the hose timer. If water is not turned on someone authorized by the resident like the home watch person would need to turn the water on and then off when the pool is filled. Jackson Pools can provide the timers or they can be obtained at local pool supply stores or online.



Major enhancement for west cul-de-sac ⁴



Removing the two oaks from the cul-de-sac proved to be very difficult. The Bismarkia Palm along with Crinum Lilies, Dwarf Podocarpus, Variegated Arboricola and Foxtail Ferns add an impressive view to the cul-de-sac island.





Palm trees trimmed

Green Acres has completed the annual trimming of the Cottages palm trees. Oaks were trimmed early this past summer and will be trimmed again in two years (2018).



Steve Kubicsek
President, Green Acres



Ruth and Jerry Lindmeyer have again decorated the Cottages entrance and Gazebo with holiday lights and wreaths. *Thank you.*

Maintenance News

Cottages Homes Painted

The Cottages 41 homes have been power washed, woodpecker holes & rotted wood repaired, windows and other areas caulked, trim and stucco body painted followed by clean-up.



Joe Sidoti
Maintenance Committee



Power Washing



Clean mold & paint



Woodpecker hole repair



Green Acres trimmed shrubs away from home walls for painting



Caulking



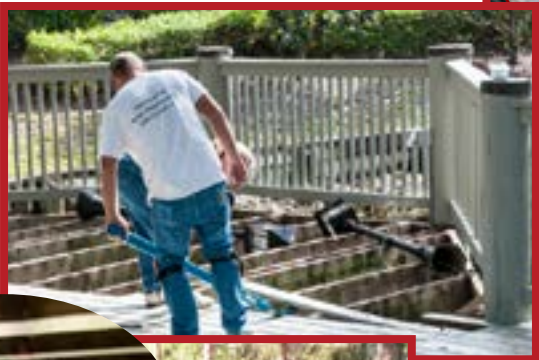
Trim painting prior to stucco painting

Gazebo receives major face-lift

The Gazebo has had new understructure and Trex decking installed. Joe Sidoti has saved significant costs and has put in considerable time of his own to make this renovation a success which should last for years to come.



Gazebo decking rotting & splintering



Sagging understructure joists



New joists added



Joe Sidoti paints Gazebo benches



New TREX decking

Website News



Visit the Cottages website

The website helps to keep residents up-to-date on what is happening around The Cottages and keeps 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.

Kiki Scovel
Webmaster

The following are only a few of the things you can find on the website:

- ***Announcements*** about happenings in The Cottages
- ***Contact information***- service providers, utilities, trash pickup
- ***Archives of The Cottages Newsletters***
- ***Meeting notices and minutes***
- ***Cottage residents' real estate sale page*** - includes a direct link to your realtor's listing. Please email or call me if you wish to have your Cottages home sale posted on the webpage.

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 a previous email. Please feel free to contact me for password information or with any questions, comments or suggestions you may have.

Kiki Scovel

contact me at: cottagespl@gmail.com

<http://www.cottagespl.org>

A sign for "The Cottages" featuring the name in a cursive font on a white background with a teal border. The sign is mounted on two stone pillars. The background is a sunset over a body of water.

*The
Cottages*

The Eagles have landed at The Cottages



The eagles that nest every year across from the Cottages along Hurricane 12 are back for the 2017 season.





Jackson Pools starts new pool service

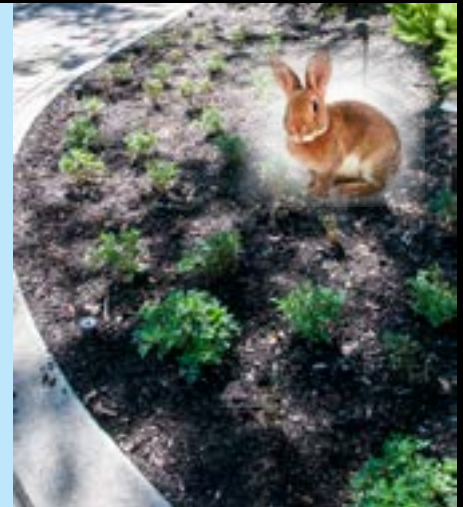


Jackson Pools started the pool service contract for our 41 homes on October 5, 2016. The technician servicing our pools has been Mike Lane. He cleans our pools on two days:
Wednesdays (even no. houses)
Fridays (odd no. houses).



Rabbits eating our entrance marigolds

The CDD recently changed out our entrance annuals to marigolds. However, rabbits love to eat the tender flowers and as you can see they have eaten all of the flowers. We have sprinkled rabbit repellent in that area but rain soon washed it away. CDD agreed to swap the marigolds out and new flowers are now in place. The rabbits do not seem to have an appetite for the new flowers.



DUMPSTERS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Pelican Landing: When planning any work at your home please remember, just as last year, during the Christmas and New Year's holidays, dumpsters, Porta Pottys, pods and any like items may not be left on property overnight from December 19 - January 2. Contractors will still be able to work Monday-Saturday from 7am-6pm. They will just not be allowed to leave any equipment overnight. There are no vendors allowed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Thank you for your cooperation.

Finances



Dennis Lowe
Treasurer

Quarterly fee increase required for 2017

No one likes to hear the words “fee increase” but a modest increase of a little over 3% is required for 2017. The current quarterly fee is \$966 and will increase to \$999, an increase of \$33 per quarter, \$11 per month.

In addition to COLA (cost of living) increases there are several other areas such as legal fees, irrigation repairs and Reserves Account funding are contributing to higher costs.

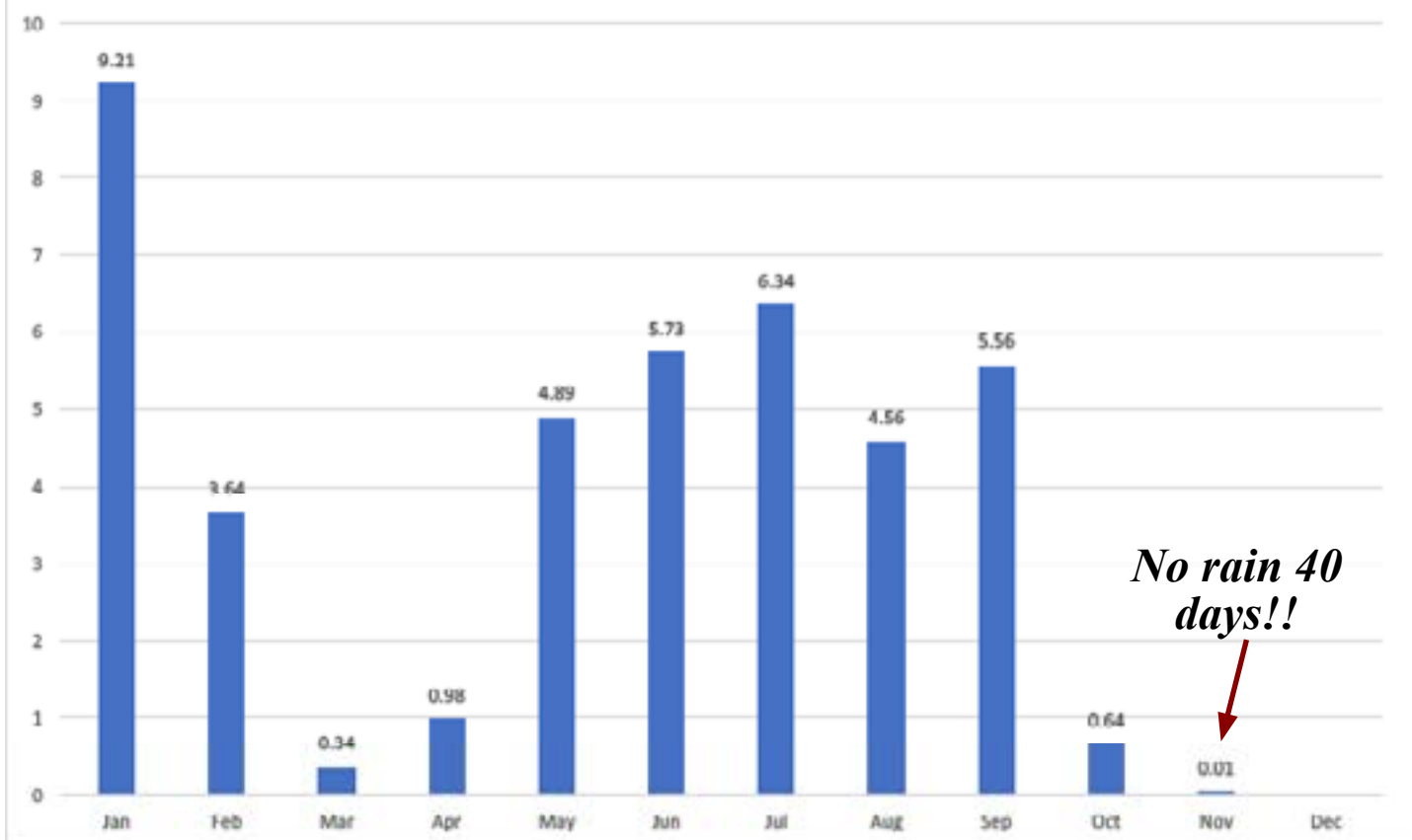
November rainfall hits record low!

November rainfall in Bonita Springs hit it's lowest recorded level. As a result our grass, plants and trees have been struggling. Dan Geist, Bradford solutions, has increased the watering times but it has been a tough battle.

Bonita Springs Rainfall 2016 (inches)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
9.2	3.6	0.3	1	4.9	5.7	6.3	4.6	5.6	0.6	0.01		42

Bonita Springs Rainfall 2016



Hotwire Comes to Pelican Landing

Hotwire has been chosen as the provider for bulk cable and internet services for Pelican Landing replacing Comcast. A unique Webpage for our use and information has been developed which answers many questions.

Pelican Landing residents can view their Pelican Landing Hotwire Webpage by accessing the following link: www.gethotwired.com/pelicanlanding

and enter Access Code: 4426 (Right side, under "Welcome").

This Hotwire link is also accessible through the

PelicanLanding.org website >Resources>Hotwire Television & Internet (PL login required).

The Hotwire Pelican Landing Webpage contains all the information you need to know, including: *Bulk services, Rate Sheet, Channel Lineup, TV Listings, FAQs & more.*

The FAQs have been developed specifically for Pelican Landing. They are located in the "Support Tab". There is also a "Contact Hotwire" button to submit questions and/or comments.

Hotwire Neighborhood Meetings

Hotwire has finalized its schedule of neighborhood meetings.

The Cottages is scheduled as follows:

Monday, January 16, 2017

2:00 - 5:00 pm

PL Community Center, Refreshments

Communities:

The Cottages, Cypress Island, Mystic Ridge, Sandpiper Greens, The Ridge

Hotwire representative Kevin Panzarella will now be at the Community Center all day Mondays & Thursdays. Stop by if you'd like to talk to him about the upcoming switch to Hotwire from Comcast.

Rogue tree root eats water pipe!



This is what our irrigation system is up against in the Cottages! Our 62 oaks and 320 palms have a big appetite for our irrigation system pipes and valves. Dan Geist chopped this root out as the culprit causing water blockage to a section of sprinkler heads near Joe Sidoti's home.



Mulch

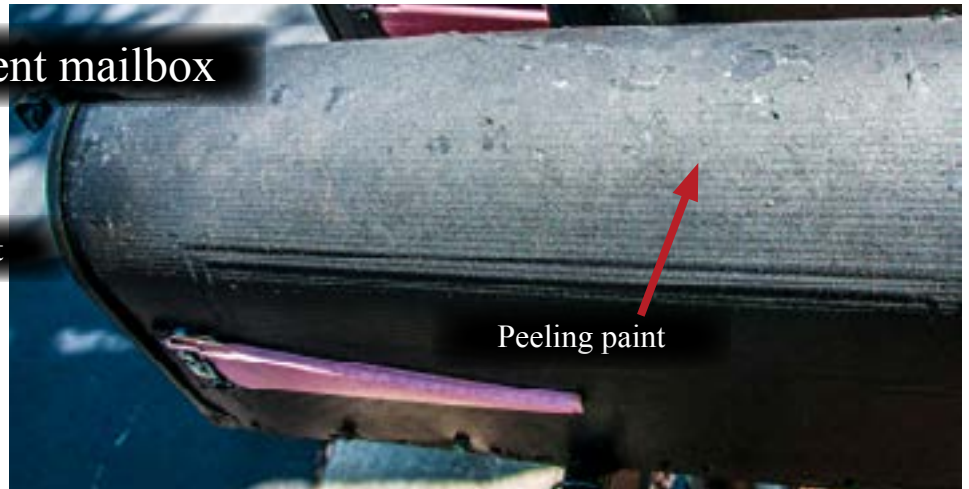
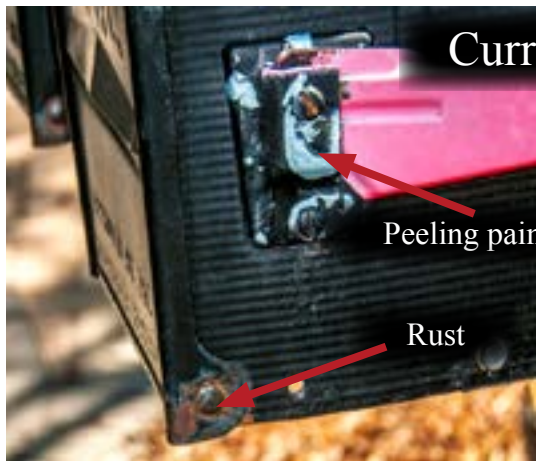
On October 22nd Green Acres put down about 1900 bags of mulch in the common areas and the fronts of our 41 Cottages homes.

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 \$4.00 per bag installed.



New mailboxes to be installed

Our current mailboxes are very old and have been painted several times. Some are much worse than others. Hinges on the doors are rusting and paint is peeling. Trying to refurbish the existing mailboxes would probably cost \$90 - \$100 and would need to be done in another several years. The Board has found a replacement cast aluminum mailbox from ASAP Mailbox at a reasonable cost. ASAP Mailbox will remove the current mailboxes, wire brush the posts and number brackets, paint to match the new mailboxes and install new Port Royal mailboxes. The new mailboxes will be installed in early 2017.



December Social

16

21 residents attended the Cottages December Social. Great food, a chance to meet our neighbors and to enjoy the new Gazebo decking and lights.



Annual Meeting

Thursday Feb. 9, 2017

4:00 pm Community Center

Recap of 2016, plans for 2017, elections

Cottages social after meeting