

A tropical beach scene at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with the sun low on the horizon over the ocean. Several palm trees are scattered across the sandy beach, their silhouettes and fronds catching the light. The overall mood is peaceful and idyllic.

# *The Cottages*

**Newsletter  
Spring 2026**



## President's Message

*Happy Spring Cottagers--*

*This 2026 season we have enjoyed some of the most pleasant winter weather ever here in Southwest Florida and the trend is continuing. I hope y'all can get out and enjoy the mild temperatures while they last. Once again thank you to Dennis Lowe for producing another informative newsletter so we can all stay up-to-date with The Cottages.*

*Thank you to the head of our maintenance committee Rich Harper. His latest repair was fixing a loose board on the steps at the gazebo which was "discovered" when a resident stepped on it. Thank you for reporting that right away!*

*In the coming months the HOA will be embarking on the largest project of 2026. The East side irrigation re-wire is scheduled for September (weather dependent, of course.) Dan Geist of Bradford Landscape will be the contractor. Dan will also remove the old irrigation controllers from the side of the houses once the new system is installed. The board is looking into oak tree management while maintaining our tree canopy. After 30 years the oaks have grown very large in small yards. A few oaks are "bad actors," meaning they cause repeated damage to irrigation, road and driveways costing us many thousands of dollars over the past years. We are consulting with Dave Johnson, an ISA certified arborist, for solutions. The Entry Sign Committee will be starting a re-design of our entrance monument and sending out Requests for Proposals. The target for this is 2027.*

*Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter and Passover,  
Kiki*

# Maintenance News

## *Repair of equipment stand*

*During the repair of our landscape lighting the electricians discovered that the wooden stand holding electrical equipment was rotted and falling over. Rich Harper purchased pressure treated wood and made the repair.*



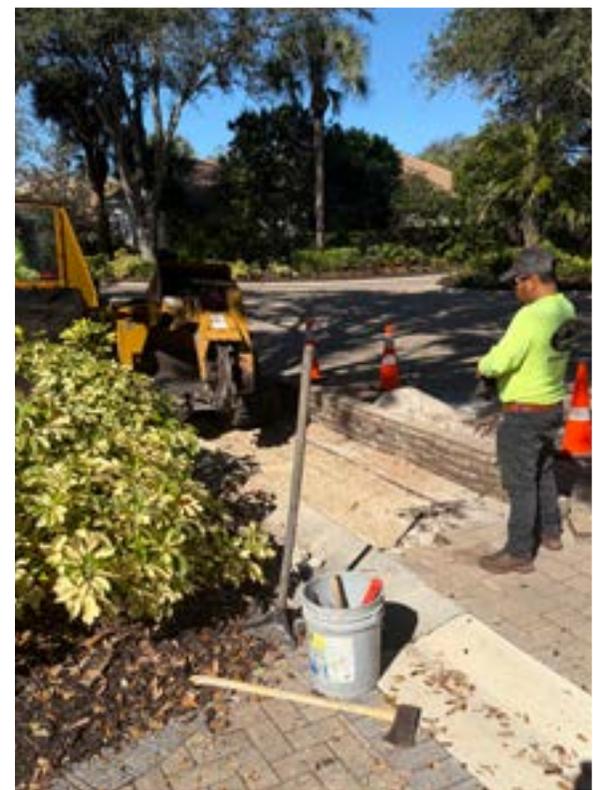
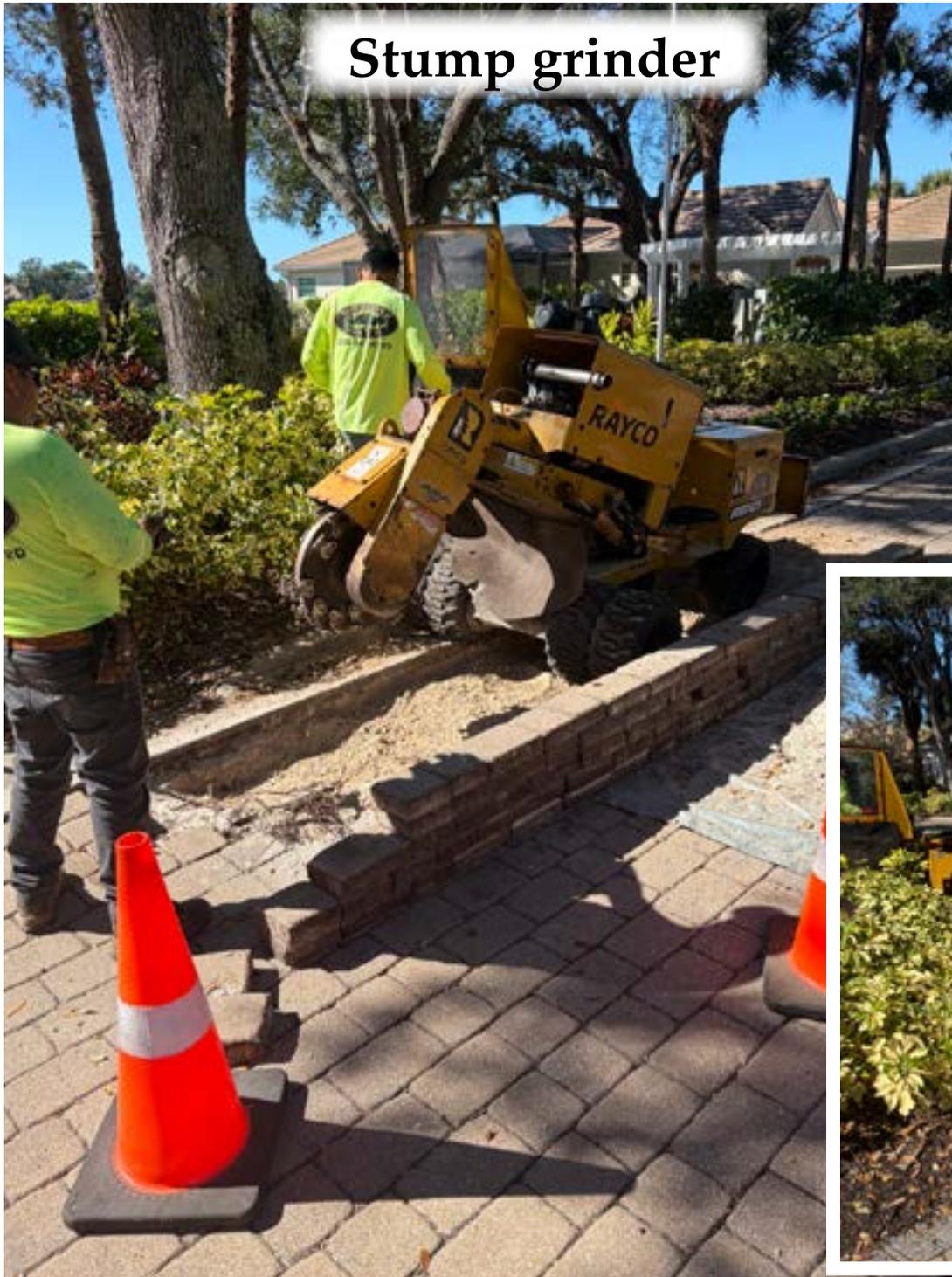
Rich Harper  
Secretary/Maintenance



## *Removal of tree roots*

*Johnson Tree Service removed pavers and used a stump grinder to take out tree roots that had made the road near the Gazebo very uneven.*

**Stump grinder**



# Maintenance News

*Pavers are  
now level*



# Finances



Dennis Lowe  
Treasurer, Newsletter

We have a balance of \$56,000 in our operating account and \$85,000 in Reserves at the end of January 2026.

We are planning to start the East irrigation wiring project in the early Fall. This will cost \$48,000.



**Conduit & wire being installed**

# Finances

## YE 2025 Budget Performance

Over		
General Maintenance	(4,024)	lanscape lighting repairs
Pest control	(944)	extra baiting of boxes
Irrigation repairs	(606)	several major broken lines
Water	(402)	loss during water leaks
Trees	(200)	
Office Expenses	(180)	
<b>Over</b>	<b>(6,355)</b>	
Under		
Mulch	3,045	
Insurance	838	
Lighting / Fountain	870	
Electricity	610	
Contingency	467	
landscape Improvements	261	
<b>Under</b>	<b>5,829</b>	
<b>Net over Budget</b>	<b>(526)</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>Reserve Fund Contribution</b>	<b>(3,537)</b>	<b>8.3%</b>

For 2025 we were slightly over our Operating Budget by \$526 (0.3%).

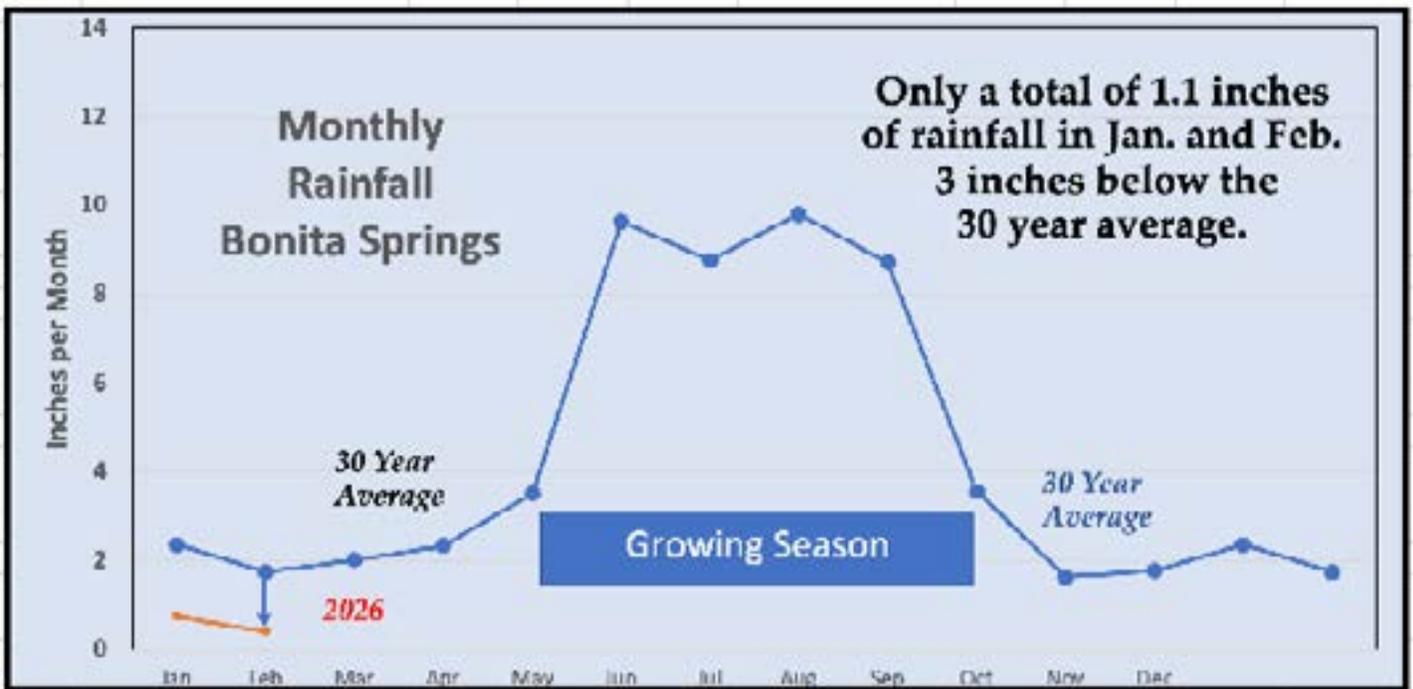
We were over the Reserves Budget by \$3,537 (8.3%).

Out of 19 total accounts,  
 7 were over budget  
 6 were under budget  
 6 were right on budget

# RAINFALL

*The cumulative 2026 rainfall  
Jan through February  
ended up 3 inches below  
the 30-year average.*

		2.36	1.74	2.01	2.33	3.51	9.64	8.76	9.81	8.72	3.56	1.62	1.77
		<b>Bonita Springs Monthly Rainfall</b>											
	2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	30 yr Mthly	2.36	1.74	2.01	2.33	3.51	9.64	8.76	9.81	8.72	3.56	1.62	1.77
	2026 Mthly	0.7	0.4										
	2026 Cum	0.7	1.1										
	30 yr Cum	2.4	4.1	6.1	8.4	12.0	21.6	30.4	40.2	48.9	52.4	54.1	57.6



## New residents

WELCOME

Jack & Kathleen  
Aylsworth

*They moved from  
NiPomo, CA*



## Cottages Entry Sign

The current monument is 30 years old. Paul Barnicke made several repairs to the rotted wood. The stones are falling out. The board has appointed an entry sign committee to research designs for replacement sometime in 2027.



## Did you know...

You need to keep your dog on a leash and under owner control at all times? Leashing your pet is required by Pelican Landing. There are no areas in Pelican Landing that allow off-leash pet activities. Bark 'n Play Dog Park is located at 11071 E. Terry St. Bonita Springs.



**Tell your friends  
Olde Cottage Lane**

**NOT  
SO  
FAST**



# Around the Neighborhood

*Rich Harper took this photo of an eagle perched on a rooftop during a walk around the neighborhood.*



*Ty & Gretchen at 3661 took photos of this very large Iguana in their backyard*



# Invasión de Iguanas

*In Southwest Florida, iguanas have become a familiar sight in residential communities, golf courses, and canal banks.*

*Most are green iguanas, native to Central and South America, thriving in the region's warm, subtropical climate. They are excellent climbers and swimmers, often seen basking*



*in trees or sunning themselves on seawalls. While generally non-aggressive, iguanas can cause damage by burrowing near foundations, seawalls, and sidewalks, and by feeding on ornamental landscaping. During cooler winter mornings, they may become temporarily immobile and fall from trees. Despite challenges, they remain a distinctive and highly visible part of Southwest Florida's ecosystem.*

# Bobcat & cubs

*Bruce Osterlink (3605) took a photograph of a bobcat and two cubs in his backyard.*



# Most storms stay in Atlantic

*The 2025 Atlantic hurricane season concluded with 13 named storms and 5 hurricanes, 4 of which were major. Despite the active, high-intensity nature of the season, no hurricanes or tropical storms made landfall in Florida or the United States. Three Category 5 storms were recorded, marking a very intense but geographically distant season for Southwest Florida.*



# Annual Meeting

The 2026 Annual Meeting was held on February 18th at the Community Center. Topics discussed were landscape improvements, lack of rainfall, finances and plans for 2026.

After the formal meeting residents enjoyed a light buffet and lots of good conversation.

## Pelican Landing voting rep

Ellen Harper, The Cottages voting rep, arranged for candidates running for the PLCA board to do a meet & greet with Cottages residents.

15 residents attended and enjoyed wine and light appetizers at the gazebo while the candidates presented their views and answered resident questions. It was very informative and appreciated.

*Thank you Ellen!*

# *Cottages Board*



Kiki Scovel  
President /  
Landscaping /  
Website



Rich Harper  
Secretary /  
Maintenance



Dennis Lowe  
Treasurer /  
Newsletter



Thomas Pfumer  
Association Manager

*Happy Spring!*

*Travel Safely*

