

The Canopy

Covering Our Community

SNAP INTO SPRING



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BRANCHES OF OUR CANOPY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathleen Grabow, President

Spring is on its way at *The Trails*, bringing a burst of color and renewal. Snap Dragon flowers are already brightening the Granada and Nova entries to Main Trail, as well as the well – planters and select median tips throughout the community. A second flower change is planned before Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting. The landscaping contract with Yellowstone includes three rotations a year—over 600 plants installed with each rotation—with additional plant replacement costs built into our annual budget.

We have received many compliments about the Snap Dragons, along with some questions about the cost of the flower rotations. Aside from the on-site detailed crew payroll, Yellowstone has maintained steady contract fees for more than four years. Salvageable plants removed during the rotations are offered to homeowner members free of charge, giving you the chance to recover and cultivate them at the end of their seasonal life. In the past, we have even donated rotated poinsettias to the Sea Breeze High School Agricultural Department.

Spring also brings more activity from homeowners. According to the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) report presented at the February 13 board meeting, over 20 applications for external repairs and upgrades were completed in just the first month of 2025. The Architectural Control Committee meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month to review exterior changes, ensuring our community maintains its property values and aesthetic appeal. New homeowners should note that any external repairs or changes require an application process. Sub-HOA members must first obtain approval from their own associations before applying to *The Trails* ACC. For more information or to obtain an application, visit RealManage.com or email TrailsHOA@CiraMail.com.

The Board is aware of disruptions caused by recent MetroNet, Wire-3 and AT&T cable upgrades, which have affected both remote work and leisure streaming. The digging, and digging, and digging in utility easements is not under the control of the Association, the Board, or our Property Management. Some members have experienced sprinkler system breakages due to these projects. These installations, authorized by the City of Ormond Beach as essential utilities, sometimes lead to property damage. We recommend contacting the company directly regarding any issues; you can reach assistance by calling The Trails HOA Office at 386-673-0855.



Lastly, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our law firm for providing a free four-hour state-required certification class for HOA and Sub-associations, and thanks as well to Yellowstone Landscaping for the Panera lunch provided to 57 attendees. Your involvement, from board members to property managers, helps make our community stronger. For those who missed the session, online classes are available through the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment. Here is to a vibrant and enjoyable spring season at *The Trails*.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE ... Board Members - old and new - receive Certification training

Rob Bridger, Secretary



First, it is my pleasure to welcome and introduce to the community our newest Trails HOA Board Member - Heather O'Neil. Ms. O'Neil was appointed to *The Trails* Board in December, 2024; just in time to register for the January Board Certification training.

Heather has a career background in education, community service, and marriage and family therapy. She served as a Guardian Ad Litem for the seventh

judicial circuit and has over a decade of experience working with children and families in the dependency court system. Heather is a proud alumna of the University of Central Florida where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology, a Master of Arts in humanities, and a Master of Science in marriage and family therapy. She played collegiate soccer and has earned regional and national NJCAA gold medals; Heather is an active member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) and is currently serving as the President for the Board of Directors for Wildwood Sub-association.

Now, regarding the Board Certification training: as initially announced in the 4th Quarter 2024 edition of *The Canopy*, attorney Erin Wollett, of the firm Wright & Casey, P.A., provided comprehensive Board Certification training on January 20, 2025. In total, there were fifty-seven (57) participants in the class.

The Florida Legislature has now required this 4-hour Board Certification

training for all Home Owner Association boards across the State. Ms. Wollett's training covered many topics: Powers and Duties of the Association; Board Meetings - Participation, Notice, Voting, and Minutes; Publication of Rules & Covenants - Official records, Inspection & Copying of Records, Association websites, Reserve Accounts, Annual Financial Reporting, Association Officers Duties - Continuing Education, Conflicts of Interest; and Criminal Penalties. And more ... and more.

There was a lunch break in the 4-hour session. Compliments of our Association's landscape provider, Yellowstone, special order box lunches from Pinera Bread were provided to all registered participants, at no cost to the Association. Highest kudos to our Property Managers, Brandy Hayes and Alex Wood, for coordinating the ordering, timely delivery, and orderly distribution of the special-order lunches to the 57 participants.

During the lunch break Barry Critcher, from Yellowstone, discussed the company's services if other Sub-associations or homeowners were interested in getting proposals.

Overall, this Board Certification training was a very information-laden presentation, and at its conclusion Ms. Wollett provided the participants their Certificates of Completion.

Thank you Erin.



Trails HOA President Kathleen Grabow thanks Erin Wollett.





Introducing the Director of Community Association Management

Virginia Ochoa, LCAM, CMCA, AMS



Hello Residents of *The Trails*,

I am excited to introduce myself, my name is Virginia Ochoa, I joined RealManage in October of 2024, bringing 15 years of experience in the community management industry.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be appointed as the Director for on-site communities, a new strategy within the RealManage Orlando Branch. This approach is dedicated to establishing strong service standards, promoting teamwork, ensuring consistency, and fostering long-lasting relationships—all with the goal of enhancing the quality of life in your community.

Throughout my career, I have been committed to building meaningful relationships, streamlining operations, and ensuring that both my teams and residents feel heard and valued.

I am excited to lead this new initiative at RealManage, bringing a fresh perspective, a bit of humor, and a deep dedication to making a lasting impact. I look forward to working alongside all of you, serving as a resource, and contributing to our continued growth and success.

MANAGERS' CORNER

Brandie Hayes, LCAM/Notary - TrailsHO@ciramail.com
Alexandra Wood, LCAM - TrailsHO@ciramail.com

The Managers' Corner this edition will be about the dreaded "H" word. In my book, no other "Lettered Word" is worse!

☛ Hurricane Season in Florida: What You Need to Know

Hurricane season in Florida runs from **June 1 to November 30**, with the peak of activity typically occurring between **August and October**. Here are some key facts and tips to help you stay prepared:

☛ Fast Facts Found Online About Florida Hurricanes

- **Florida is the most hurricane-prone state** in the U.S., with over 120 direct hits recorded since 1851.
- The **Saffir-Simpson Scale** categorizes hurricanes from **Category 1 (74 mph winds)** to **Category 5 (157+ mph winds)**.
- Storm surge—the abnormal rise in sea level due to a storm—is one of the deadliest hurricane threats, even more dangerous than wind.
- **Hurricane Ian (2022)** and **Hurricane Michael (2018)** were among the strongest and costliest storms to hit Florida in recent years.
- The **"Cone of Uncertainty"** in forecasts does not show the full impact area—hurricanes can be hundreds of miles wide!

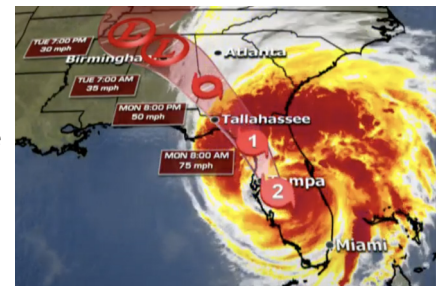
● HOA Hurricane Preparedness Tips

- ✓ **Know Your Evacuation Zone** – Check your county's emergency website to see if you are in an evacuation area. <https://www.volusia.org/core/fileparse.php/6143/urlt/EvacZone.pdf>
- ✓ **Prepare Your Home** – Secure outdoor furniture, trim trees, and check storm shutters.
- ✓ **Stock Up Early** – Have at least three days' worth of food, water, and medications per person.
- ✓ **Backup Power** – Charge devices, consider a generator, and store extra batteries.
- ✓ **Stay Informed** – Monitor weather updates from NOAA, the National Hurricane Center (NHC), and local emergency officials.
- ✓ **Review Your HOA's Storm Policy** – Know the guidelines on property prep, debris removal, and post-storm recovery.

📢 Important Reminder:

After a storm, HOA staff and vendors will assess common areas and coordinate clean-up efforts. Please be patient as we work to restore normalcy!

Stay safe, stay prepared, and let us weather this season together!



DOLLARS & SENSE

Dan Gowen, Treasurer, Brandie Hayes, and Alex wood

The first quarter of 2025 has been quite positive for our Association financially due primarily to better systems and communications. To be sure, both our new systems and community communication still need more tweaks to smooth out some operational bumps. To do so, however, requires your involvement and cooperation.

The good news is that 14 percent more residents paid on time than the first quarter last year. That said, there were still 222 late or delinquent accounts. We believe the increase in first quarter receipts is due in large part to better – more efficient – communications with our residents through email and our community portal.

As you probably noticed, we stopped using the costly coupon books, and instead quarterly statements were sent electronically or by standard mail to each homeowner. The emailed statements were quicker, clearer, and cheaper for the Association. The mailed paper statements also were clearer than the previous coupon books, that took longer to arrive, and cost homeowners more.

Let us expand on efficiency and cost of communications. Until our move to Real Manage, *The Trails* HOA has relied primarily on standard mail for delivering required documents, notifications, and other communications to homeowners. Now, we can use email to communicate with nearly half of our residents. We also have a community portal for homeowners to see current community information and to manage their own accounts. There are 495 registered users, which is far more than the last two management

companies recorded as registered. Sadly, on average, monthly only 193 residents regularly visit this portal on www.ciranet.com.

Residents have a choice on how the Property Managers and Board communicate with them. You may prefer to use standard mail for all communications with the HOA, but that costs us extra processing/receiving time, as well as printing costs and postage, which could otherwise be saved. For example, the mailings completed for our Annual Meeting to all residents cost the HOA between \$1,000.00 for the Intent to Candidate and upwards of \$5,000.00 for the Annual Notice in an election year where the Board has more candidates than seats to fill. If we are able use email and the portal for conducting business, we can save significantly as those technological costs are included in our management fees.

Finally, the Budget Committee will meet to work on the 2026 Budget in August this year, as the draft will be presented by our onsite management staff at that time, to the committee. We welcome all *Trails* homeowners to participate in this process. Like every year, this will be your chance to have a say in how our funds are spent to maintain *The Trails'* standards. Please contact Brandie Hayes or Alex Wood at *The Trails* Office if you would like to participate. It is your choice, and it is your money.



LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE – Update & Yard of the Quarter

Marilyn Dorinson, Committee Member

February is not the best month to photograph yards for Yard of the Quarter, but several homes managed to look lovely despite the cold snap in January. The winner of the **Yard of the Quarter** stood out from the rest with its cheery yellow pansies and beautiful Bismarck palms. That is **125 Shady Branch Trail**, owned by **Mrs. Sally Scherer**.



Mrs. Scherer and her late husband built the house in 1985. They were offered a lot in Palm Coast where he founded Palm Coast Data but there were few children in that neighborhood at that time and they wanted a neighborhood where there were children for theirs to socialize with. They came to shop at *The Trails* Shopping Center one day and discovered the beauty of our neighborhood, and they chose their lot because it was the only one available that could accommodate the width of their home's design.

The house is gray and has yellow doors, an appealing combination. It is the only one along the path that is not fenced in, as she likes having no obstruction to the view.

Mrs. Scherer loves living in *The Trails* and says she has the best neighbors in the world. Congratulations to her on the selection of her property for Yard-of-the-Quarter!



In other landscape committee business, the dwarf snapdragons at the entrances and in the planters have bloomed beautifully after a brief delay caused by the cold weather. For the second-quarter plants, the committee chose mixed vinca in various colors, and they will be planted the first or second week of April. The damaged Bismarck palm in the island on Main Trail, near the junction with Shady Branch Trail will be replaced. Other problems have occurred in areas where storm debris was piled and the grass died. The committee will consider replacing the sod. Mulching will be done on or around May 12, but the mulch will not be blown on, as the cost for that has increased 29%. Fulltime mowing will start April 1 and the hard cutback along the bike trails will begin in March.



We invite you to come to Landscape Committee meetings as a guest or as a potential member. The meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 3:00 pm, in the Clubhouse / Office 1st Floor Conference Room.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

TRAILS MEMBERS TAKE TO A SPORTS CRAZE

Heather O'Neil

Pickleball ...If you know, you know... And it is FREE! (terms and conditions apply.)

Join the vibrant pickleball community, among those of which are Trails HOA members and residents. The most convenient place to play, for our neighborhood, is at the Nova Community Center in Ormond Beach! Pickleball continues to be the fastest-growing sport in the U.S. for the fourth consecutive year, with participation surging by an estimated 45% from 2023 to 2024.

With nearly 40 million players, it is easy to see why the sport is thriving—it is easy to learn, great for staying active, and fosters a fun, social atmosphere for players and spectators alike.



The Nova Community Center, located at 440 N. Nova Road, Ormond Beach, offers both indoor and outdoor pickleball courts.

- Six indoor courts are available to the public **Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** (Note: Indoor pickleball is not available on Sundays.)
- **Three outdoor courts** are lined on the tennis courts and open **during regular court hours.**

Free Pickleball Lessons

Looking to improve your game? The community center offers free personal pickleball lessons for all skill levels. **Doug Widnall**, Recreation Leader and Trails HOA Member, provides lessons every **Monday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.** With nearly a decade of experience, Doug uses a dynamic, multi-layered teaching approach, combining on-court instruction with whiteboard strategy sessions to help players sharpen their skills.

Admission & Fees

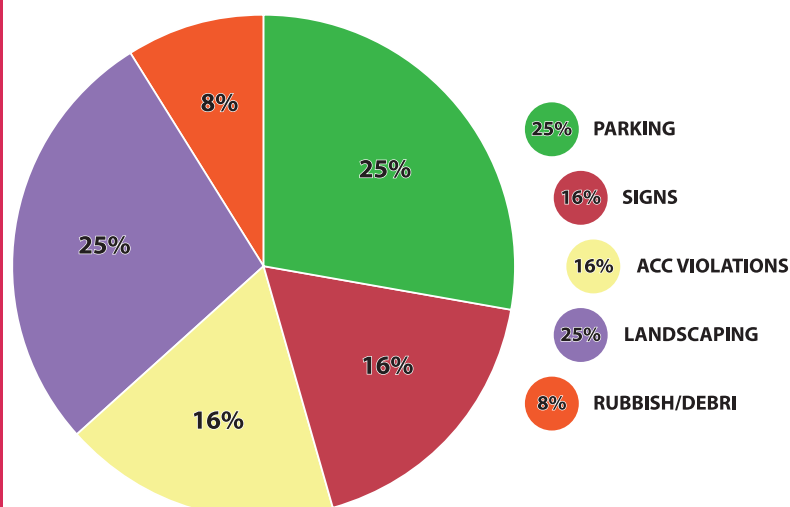
- **Ormond Beach residents** play for **free** (must present valid ID).
- **Non-residents** pay a **\$4 daily fee.**

For questions or more information, the friendly staff at the Nova Community Center is happy to assist! Contact them at **(386) 676-3252** during operating hours:

- **Monday to Saturday:** 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
- **Sunday:** 1 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Come join the fun and experience why pickleball is America's fastest-growing sport!

COVENANT VIOLATION DATA



Tomoka Reserve developers file federal lawsuit against Ormond Beach

The lawsuit was filed eight months after the City Commission rejected rezoning the golf course for a 300-home subdivision.

JARLEENE ALMENAS
MANAGING EDITOR

The developers of the proposed Tomoka Reserve subdivision – whose rezoning request that would have led to the construction of 300 homes on the former Tomoka Oaks golf course was denied by the City Commission last April – have filed a federal lawsuit against the city of Ormond Beach.

Filed on Dec. 26, 2024, at the U.S. District Court's Orlando Division, the 91-page lawsuit alleges that the city's declaration that the golf course property has no allowed zoning uses by right and refusal to issue a new development order is a violation of the developers' rights. The property is currently zoned as a Planned Residential Development; its previous development order expired in 2014, four years before the golf course officially closed.

At a City Commission meeting on April 16, 2024, the commission unanimously denied a rezoning of the property to R-2 "Single-family low density," in line with the Planning Board's recommendation to deny. Triumph Oaks of Ormond Beach LLC, the developers, were seeking a rezoning after their plans to build a 272-home subdivision under the PRD zoning were sent back to the Planning Board by the commission in November 2023. Commissioners requested the developers submit a new site plan, one with less density and better conformity with the existing Tomoka Oaks neighborhood, whose residents largely oppose the project.

"The city's determination that Triumph Oaks has no lawful development rights for its property unless and until it negotiates an 'acceptable' definition of those private-property rights with area residents and the city's elected officials constitutes an unlawful taking of the property without payment of just compensation," the lawsuit states.

Developers purchased the 147-acre golf course property in 2021. The property was zoned R-2 prior to a rezoning to a PRD in 2006, when its owner at the time sought to construct a 122-unit townhome and condominium project. Due to the recession, this never happened.

In October 2024, the developers filed an appeal with the Seventh Judicial Circuit of the City Commission's decision to deny their rezoning request, a case that could have been heard by a special magistrate. However, the city and the developer were not able to reach an agreement in choosing a mediator.



In 2022, Tomoka Oaks residents placed signs on their front lawns and common areas that advocated for the preservation of the golf course land.

Photo by Jarleene Almenas

In the federal lawsuit, attorney Karl Sanders, who represents Triumph Oaks, states that the city's refusal to grant the developers a zoning designation constitutes an "unlawful taking of private property." The lawsuit argues that the commission's rezoning denial "reflects an attempt to 'strong-arm' Triumph Oaks into relinquishing its constitutional and statutory rights" to be able to develop the property.

"For more than four years now, the owners of this property have repeatedly reached out to both area residents and elected officials at City Hall to formulate a development plan that pleased everyone," Sanders said in a statement to the Observer. "And while significant progress was made in those discussions, there comes a

point where elected officials need to make difficult decisions that will inevitably fall short of pleasing everyone involved. That never happened here, and the city has continued to ignore the multiple efforts of Triumph Oaks to have meaningful discussions about resolving all outstanding issues."

Sanders said that the biggest misconception is that "local elected officials can trump the constitutional rights of private property owners."

"When the city repeatedly tells you that your private property has 'no development rights' unless and until the city says it does, that's a real problem," Sanders said. "And, thanks to the protections afforded by the Constitution, there's a simple solution to that problem: The government can either decide to have meaningful discussions about resolving the issues or it can pay just compensation for the taking of private property."

In an email, City Attorney Randy Hayes said that the resolution that was approved by the City Commission last year addresses the developer's issues.

"The only strong-arm position that has been taken is by the developer," Hayes said. "The litigation matters are pending so I cannot address those details. Mediation toward a reasonable solution is always a possibility."

EDITOR'S NOTES:

This article was published in THE OBSERVER on January 16, 2025; it is reprinted in THE CANOPY with permission.

This article is provided for individual homeowners' information. The Trails Board has not established a position for the Association on this development issue.

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Community.**



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What spring projects would you do with a Home Equity Loan?

- ✕ Home Equity Loans
- ✕ Home Equity Credit Lines
- ✕ Fixed Rate Home Equity Credit Lines

New Pool? New Addition? Family Vacation?

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LAWN CARE TIPS FROM THE PROS

Guest Article contributed by Yellowstone Landscape



April is Almost Here. Time for Spring Pruning.

Pruning is a necessary element in the landscape maintenance process, especially now with spring here. Pruning is necessary for numerous reasons, including alleviating freeze damage, promoting new growth, and eliminating any safety issues such as roadway and sidewalk visibility.



Pruning to Alleviate Freeze Damage

With the winter season past us and spring just ahead, we can now focus on fixing the damage the cold left behind. For plants that received extensive damage from this winter,

it is necessary to prune the burned leaves and stems back to a few inches above the ground. This is important because photosynthesis is unable to take place on burned leaves. Soon, green growth will emerge from the pruned stems.

Pruning to Promote New Growth

Proper pruning also helps promote new growth, and now is the best time to perform such pruning, which is also called spring rejuvenatory pruning. Currently, many plants are in the process of emerging from the dormant stage of winter. Pruning the plant now will not cause as much stress as pruning the plant when it is actively growing. If this type of pruning takes place in the summer, then it can cause death since much of the food-making ability and stored water is lost. Removing such portions of the plant now has less effect on the plant since metabolic functions are greatly reduced.

Pruning for Safety

Pruning is important for the overall health and aesthetic appearance of the landscape. It's also a great activity to welcome spring into your home's landscape. So, get out your pruners and spruce up your landscape for abundant blooms and healthy plants this upcoming season.



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Meet Artists in the Neighborhood

Marilyn Dorinson

You may have noticed the artwork on the first floor of the clubhouse. All the paintings displayed are the works of Ormond Beach Art Guild members, who meet every Tuesday from 9:00 until 12:00 upstairs in the Clubhouse. They have been meeting there since Covid closed the Ormond Beach Senior Center and there are now seven Trails residents among the members. Here are profiles of those *Trails* artists:



Christa Berry, a native of Bremen, Germany, came to the U.S. with her husband and children in the 60's, and has lived in *The Trails* for four-and-one-half years. She has been interested in painting since childhood and has taken lessons at Jon Peterson's Gallery in Salt Lake City. Her favorite medium is oil but since joining the Art Guild last year, she has been concentrating on watercolor and is working with member Joe Costanzo. She enjoys socializing with the group.

Maureen Bridger is co-chairperson of the group with Marilyn Dorinson, her friend and across-the-path-neighbor for 35 years. She loved to draw and paint in childhood but had a busy career. Maureen is a Registered Nurse with a Masters degree in Special Education. She served as both the Director of

Student Health Services, and the Director of Disabled Student Services at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She did not have time to indulge her love of art while actively working and raising a daughter with her husband, Rob. She has attended several art classes since retiring. She joined the Art Guild in 2015 and works in watercolor and pastels.

Judy Davis has lived in *The Trails* for more than 25 years. She started painting at about age five and decorated her grandfather's ceiling and stairs. Her father was a talented cartoonist. She spent her childhood in Wheaton, Illinois, then moved to Michigan and finally to Ormond Beach, where she graduated from Seabreeze High School. Her studies took her to Washington University in St. Louis. She had varied careers, among them at Ivey's, where she decorated windows and made signs. She also did illustrations for medical books after studying cadavers at Marquette University. She has studied art in several locations and her favorite medium is watercolor.



Marilyn Dorinson is co-chairperson with Maureen Bridger and joined the Art Guild in 2015, after retiring as the International Baccalaureate French teacher at Spruce Creek High School. She studied art through childhood and teenage years, as well as taking several classes as an adult. She painted in acrylics until joining Joe Costanzo's watercolor class and now does mostly watercolors.

Dan Gowen, HOA board member, joined the Art Guild last year after busy careers in the military and the diplomatic corps which took him all over the world. He has lived in Germany, France, Senegal, Morocco and in Central and South America. He became interested in painting at an early age by drawing cartoons and was inspired by Bob Ross later. When stationed in Washington, D.C., he took lessons at the Smithsonian and at the Torpedo Factory. His wife and daughter bought him

a large easel and told him to get to work, so he did. He recently took a two-month cruise to Africa and the Mediterranean and took painting lessons from resident artists on the cruise.

Jairock Lee (Jai) has been a member of the Art Guild longer than any other member. She is a native of South Korea and her beautiful watercolors reflect her Asian heritage, particularly those depicting flowers. She has a Masters in Nursing, taught nursing, and did oriental brush painting before switching to watercolor. Jai raised four children with her husband, then devoted herself to art.

One of the newest members is **Mary Lou Michler**, who has lived here for 45 years. She worked at the Ormond Beach Library, where one of her duties was arranging the displays in the cases at the entrance. She attended an author's convention and took a painting class while there, then took lessons from Joe Costanzo and nationally-known local artist, Janet Rogers. She also took a class at the Ormond Memorial Art Museum.



Art Guild members living in *The Trails* (left to right) - Dan Gowen, Maureen Bridger, Marilyn Dorinson, Judy Davis, and Mary Lou Michler



Membership in the Art Guild is by invitation, and is open to experienced artists who can exhibit their work twice a year. Interested applicants are asked to paint with the group at the Clubhouse for at least two months; then submit a letter detailing their history with art plus, some biographical information; and finally, submit at least two of their paintings to the group - for election to the Guild. For more information, please contact either Marilyn Dorinson at (386) 274-9963 or Maureen Bridger at (386) 846-5517.

The Ormond Beach Art Guild will hold its **Spring Exhibit at the Casements** in April, and will have a reception on **Saturday, April 5 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**, which the public is invited to attend at no charge. There will be refreshments and music, and many paintings by these featured artists and others will be offered for sale. Come to the reception and meet your neighborhood artists in person.

WHY DO WE SEND VALENTINES?

Maureen Bridger

Every year February 14th is the day when sweethearts and married couples celebrate their love. When did sending cards, flowers, jewelry, and other heartfelt gifts start?

St. Valentine was a Roman of the third Century and is patron of love, happy marriages, and honey bees. Some believe that his name Valentine morphed into "falling" and now he is also the saint for people who have seizures.

The Emperor Claudius in the third century forbade couples to marry so that men could be strong and join his army. Valentine joined happy couples, uniting them in marriage and forbade joining the army. Claudius punished Valentine by beheading him. His feast day is associated with courtly love.

Geoffrey Chaucer, the prodigious author of the 14th century wrote that St. Valentine associated love with bird's mating season in Medieval times.

Victorians began to send love notes--Valentines--- and we continue with cards and gifts to send our love and affection. Cards, chocolates, and jewelry have begun a long tradition. All types of love can be sent--not just to lovers or married mates---but to friends, and relatives with caring to all.

Hope you had a Happy Valentines Day, and good wishes to all!



PURIM, A JEWISH FEAST

Maureen Bridger

Purim follows the Jewish Lunar Calendar; in 2025 the feast is celebrated the eve of Thursday, sundown March 13th through Friday, March 14th. Purim commemorates defeat of the plan to destroy the Jews by Haman, the royal vizier to King Ahasuerus, of the Persian empire. Saving the Jews, Queen Esther's bravery saved them from Haman's plot (the story of Purim is in the Book of Esther).

This special feast and is joyous and lively. Some, especially children, dress in costumes of story book characters. Many exchange gifts and make charitable donations to the poor. Many have parties with traditional foods---kreplach, challah, brisket and Hamantaschen (triangle cookies) with sweet fillings. There is a Yiddish word for these cookies and it translates to "Haman's Pockets" and some make "booing" noises if the name Haman is mentioned---no one will ever forget that awful person!



LONG-TERM CRUISING - WHAT IS IT LIKE?

Dan Gowen

My first cruising experiences "did not impress me much." I very much liked visiting multiple places on one journey, but disliked the large ships and constant crowds. That said, my opinion is a minority one.

According to the business press, ocean cruising's popularity has been growing quickly and steadily since 2021. North Americans and Europeans make up the lion's share of cruisers. Experts project 33 million cruisers for 2025 of which the former group will be 19 million and the latter 11 million. They also expect a five percent annual increase in passengers through 2032. And, cruise ship corporations are ordering many more ships. Currently, the most popular destinations among Americans are the Caribbean, Alaska, and Europe, respectively.



Getting started -Two years ago, an old friend asked me to be his roommate for a transatlantic voyage from Miami to Barcelona. Wow! An Atlantic crossing on a "small" ship, I always wanted to do that, I was sold. After checking with the Chief of Staff and receiving my "Kitchen Pass," I booked the voyage. The adventure was excellent, leaving me wanting more. Eighteen months later, we embarked on a bigger adventure, a cruise South from Barcelona around Africa to Singapore -- for 60 days, with the Chief's permission, of course.

To be sure, I had some short-lived apprehension about a sixty-day voyage. Now, after the trip, I have no upper limit on a cruise length on a "smaller" ship. Why? Though I love most aspects of travel, such as seeing new places and meeting new people, I find

air travel without breaks to be wearing -- regardless of seating class. On the other hand, I enjoy very much the relaxation of being at sea, also regardless of stateroom class.

In two or three segments, I will share some of the fun we experienced and lessons we learned.

Preparing for the Voyage - My first concern was organizing the logistics - buying two one-way airfares and deciding what I needed to bring. Finding the best flight options from DAB was tedious, but manageable. Travel agents generally do not get paid to book flights, but are willing to do so if you are using them to book the cruise and hotels. Next time, I will engage one.

"Sixty days on a boat, late Fall in Europe, late Spring in South Africa, and a month and a half in the Tropics, how do I pack for this," I asked myself. Self responded, "sounds like packing for Europe in the Summer." So, I did, relying on layers, I packed two-weeks of clothes, most of which was destined for the carry-ons. My original goal was to use just one carry-on and one "personal item" to make airline connections easier. When I started adding consumables I "needed," the goal was shattered. So, I packed most of the weight in a roller duffel to check and carried two small bags with essentials.

Lesson - When it comes to consumables and infrequently used or "just-in-case" items, travel with only the minimum, essential items for the duration of the outbound trip. There will be stores in the port city carrying the quantity of things you will want on the ship. It is so much nicer to travel with less weight and fewer bags. Next trip will be carry-on only.

Two days before sailing, my two roommates and I rendezvoused at the Hotel Barcelona House to enjoy some Catalan culture. We are all former "Africa Hands" from the 1990s and 2000s, so we had stories to tell and plans to make. On Embarkation Day, walked to the nearby Cruise Terminal shuttle stop and off we went.

Next up -Spain and Eastern Africa! Stay-tuned for more in The Canopy's second-quarter edition this year.



WIRED OR WIRELESS?

A Look at Internet Providers in The Trails HOA

Brandie Hayes, Property Manager, LCPM

As residents of *The Trails* Homeowners Association continue to navigate the ever-changing world of internet and cable services, they now have a range of wired and wireless providers to choose from.

Current service options, listed alphabetically, include: AT&T, Direct TV, Dish Earthlink, Metronet, Spectrum, T-Mobile Home, Verizon, and Wire 3.

From Cables to Cell Towers: The Evolution of Internet Service

The shift from traditional wired connections to wireless internet represents a major technological shift in how homeowners stay connected. Traditional wired providers—such as fiber-optic services (Metronet, Wire 3), cable (Spectrum), and DSL (AT&T, Earthlink)—offer stable, high-speed internet through physical infrastructure. These connections have long been the gold standard for streaming, gaming, and remote work, but they require costly installations and maintenance.

Meanwhile, wireless providers like T-Mobile Home and Verizon are using cellular networks, including 5G technology, to deliver the internet without the need for physical cables. This allows for easier deployment in areas where installing wired connections would be expensive or impractical. As wireless technology continues to advance, speeds and reliability are reaching levels comparable to traditional broadband.

The Streaming Takeover and the Need for Speed

Streaming services have redefined entertainment, with platforms like Netflix, Hulu, and Disney+ replacing traditional cable packages.

Meanwhile, live TV streaming services such as Direct TV and Dish offer flexible packages without requiring cable infrastructure.

As more households depend on high-speed internet for everything from cloud gaming to remote work, both wired and wireless providers are adapting to meet growing demands. With multiple devices running simultaneously in homes, internet speed and reliability have become essential for modern living.

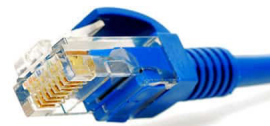
Community Upgrades and Property Concerns

Recent infrastructure improvements by AT&T, Metronet, and Wire 3 have brought faster service options to the community—but not without a few growing pains. Homeowners have reported issues related to buried cable work, such as holes in yards and temporary service outages.

While the HOA does not have the authority to approve or deny utility access (as these services require only city permits to install), residents who experience property damage from these installations can reach out to service providers directly for repairs:

- **Metronet:** 877-386-3876
- **Wire 3:** 734-657-3792

As technology continues to evolve, the debate between wired and wireless internet is far from over. But one thing is certain—fast, reliable internet has become as essential as electricity and water in today's connected world.



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Please join us on Nextdoor The Trails - Ormond Beach

Babysitter needed

Free kids bike!

Garage sale this Saturday

Car break-in!
See anything?

Anyone missing
a dog?



Nextdoor The Trails - Ormond Beach is the neighborhood hub for trusted connections and the exchange of helpful information, goods, and services. On Nextdoor, neighbors share crime and safety concerns, local events, recommendations, items for sale/free, ideas about how to make our neighborhood better, and more.

Our neighborhood is using an online platform called Nextdoor. Please join us to build a better neighborhood!

- Brandie H.
Main Trl

Please join us!



Don't miss out :)

THE TRAILS HOA NEWSPAPER

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FREE copies of the *Ormond Beach Observer* are available at the Clubhouse every Thursday

IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CLUBHOUSE (CH)

Mondays 11:30 am - 3:30 pm Bridge Club-Every other week.
Girls Scouts & Brownies evening meetings

Tuesdays 8:30 am - 12 (noon) Ormond Beach Art Guild (CH)
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Bible Study-TBD

Thursdays 11:30 am - 4:00 pm is available for Card club (each week). Note: Volunteer needed to host club.

Note: Watch Nextdoor.com for club dates to resume

TBD - These dates and times are standing for the clubs when they are comfortable meeting in groups.



When you see this flag on the calendar - display your flag at your mailbox.

APRIL 2025

04/01 - Your 2nd Qtr. Assessment of \$261.00 is due.
No Foolin'!

04/03 - Landscape Committee meeting 3:00 pm
1st floor conf. room (CH)

04/09 - ACC Meeting 9:00 am
1st floor conference room (CH)

04/10 - Board of Directors Meeting (CH 6:00 pm)

04/12 - Passover

04/18 - Good Friday

04/20 - Easter

04/22 - Earth Day

04/23 - ACC Meeting 9:00 am 1st floor conf. room (CH)

04/26 - Annual Trade Show
(CH Parking lot - 10 am - 4 pm)

04/26 - Spring Yard Sale - 8 am - ?

**04/30 - Assessment Late Fee Applied to all accounts
with any Balance Owed.**



MAY 2025

Congratulations to all the Graduating Classes of 2025

05/01 - 2nd. assessment past due \$261.00

05/01 - Landscape Committee meeting 3:00 pm
1st floor conf. room (CH)

05/05 - Cinco de Mayo



05/08 - Board of Directors Meeting (CH 6:00 pm)

05/11 - Happy Mother's Day



05/14 - ACC Meeting 9:00 am, 1st floor conf. room (CH)

05/26 - Memorial Day - Office is Closed



05/28 - ACC Meeting 9:00 am, 1st floor conf. room (CH)

05/29 - Food Truck Rally Clubhouse Parking Lot!



April: The Month of Renewal

- April is named after the Latin word "aperire," meaning "to open," symbolizing flowers blooming! 🌸
- It is National Lawn & Garden Month—perfect timing to get those HOA-approved landscapes in shape!

May: Spring in Full Swing

- May was named after Maia, the Roman goddess of growth and fertility. 🌿
- The Kentucky Derby, the longest-running sporting event in the U.S., happens every first Saturday in May. 🐎

JUNE 2025

06/05 - Landscape Committee meeting 3:00 pm
1st floor conf. room (CH)

06/11 - ACC Meeting 9:00 am, 1st floor conf. room (CH)

06/12 - Board of Directors Meeting (CH 6:00 pm)

06/14 - Flag Day



06/15 - Happy Father's Day



06/19 - Juneteenth



06/20 - Movie Night at the Pool!

Movie begins at Dusk, Pizza & Snacks FREE!

06/25 - ACC Meeting 9:00 am 1st floor conf. room (CH)

June: Summer Starts Here!

- June is named after Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage—hence, the popularity of June weddings! 💍
- It is National Dairy Month, a great excuse to enjoy some ice cream! 🍦

POOL HOURS

— APRIL 1 - 30, 2025 —

Sunday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

— MAY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Mon-Sat 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Fun Facts About April, May & June! 🌸

Spring is in full bloom, and summer is just around the corner! Here are some fun and quirky facts about the next three months.