

The Bay Laker

EDITOR: JANICE VAN DYKE

Issue 67

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Rosemary Parker



I would like to "Thank" everyone who helped with the Halloween Party. We only had 40 but we all had a great time.

I would like to thank Bogey's, Venice for the \$20.00 Gift Card. These parties could not be done without all the help for our community. I hope next year we can increase our number.



FROM THE MANAGER

Leslee Jones

With our season about to get into full swing we are finishing up our project list for 2015. The clubhouse bathroom renovations should be done or nearly complete by the time this newsletter

Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 1 BLEA Meeting
- Dec. 17 Board Meeting
- Dec. 22 First Day of Winter
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

Home Owners Association Officers

- President**
Carla Hannay 484-1371
- Vice President**
Sylvia Richardson 480-0208
- Treasurer**
Grace Gagliardi 484-6412
- Secretary**
Jane Ann Miller 483-3247
- Director**
John Stephens 488-5680
- Director**
Joyce Martin 412-9663
- Director**
Steve Rollison 375-8110

comes out. Thank you to everyone for your patience during the renovation but what a huge difference!

For those of you who haven't seen the new in house information channel 196 – take a look! It's fun and much easier to watch. Check often as updates can happen anytime! I would like to thank Ginny Grunzweig and Herb Van Dyke for editing the old system for all of those years.

Now that the weather is getting cooler, it's a good time to look at your carport. Your carport is not a storage area. The only items that should be there are a table and chairs, grill, and your bike or golf cart. Any other items should be stored elsewhere.

All of a sudden I am receiving complaints about dogs using the laundry hang up area as their place to “go” of choice. The sad thing is that the owners are not picking up after their animals either. The laundry area is off limits to dogs!

Our “Home of the Month” award for October went to 226 Flamboyant Street and the November award went to 54 Hyacinth Street. They have both received their \$50 gift cards! Make sure that you take a ride by these homes. Good luck to next month's winner!

Wishing all of you a healthy and happy Holiday Season!

Until next month!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Carla Hannay

SHORT AND SWEET:

Many thanks to the Welcome Back Party Committee and the Thanksgiving Dinner Committee. As always you all worked hard to make both of these events enjoyable. Many take these events for granted and don't realize the time and effort it takes to plan, shop, cook and present these events for your pleasure. We hope all who attended had fun, and enjoyed the

food and camaraderie. Thank you.

On the other hand I was totally disappointed by the response for the Women's Club Luncheon which was scheduled for Thursday, November 12, but had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest. Hopefully the Club's next venture will not have that same outcome.

Another commendation is to all the residents that assisted in dressing the Park and clubhouse for the upcoming Christmas Season.....as always a job well done. Everything looks beautiful. P.S. We will be scheduling a Christmas Golf Cart decorating parade and contest. So start thinking about your design. Hoping to have caroling, cookies and coffee/punch, and awards presented to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. More info will be announced.

The Board and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

HOA MEMBERSHIP

Jane Ann Miller

HOA memberships will continue to be sold on Saturday from 8:30 until 10:30. The cost of the membership is \$10.00 per person. If you can't get to the clubhouse to purchase your membership, I can be reached at 941-483-3247, and I will come to your residence. I will be back up North for 3 weeks in Dec. and will ask someone to sell them on Sat.

NEW RESIDENTS

The residents of Bay Lake Estates would like to welcome these new home owners to our family:

- 34 Orange Blossom - Vito Salerno
- 102 Carissa - Kenneth Hill

IN MEMORIUM

With sincere sympathy to family and friends:

Barbara Keenan Shepard



WELCOME BACK PARTY

Sylvia Richardson

The welcome back party on Sunday, Nov. 15th was attended by 50 plus residence. We had a large variety of food and desserts. Joe Sardo provided his time and talents for a sing a long which was enjoyed for those that remained at the club house. I would like to thank my committee for their help. While this enjoyable get together is fresh on your minds, think about hosting a welcome back party next year.

WEDDING PICTURES

Janice Van Dyke

Several years ago, I made a big poster of wedding pictures of residents with names and dates for Valentines Day. It was fun to look at and talk about. If you are up North or in your home in Florida, start looking for wedding pictures to give me. Please put names and date on the back. I will see that you get them back.

THANK YOU

Janice Van Dyke

Mary Keenan, Steve Shepard, and I want to thank everyone for their prayers and cards in Barb's passing. We also want to thank everyone that attended the funeral service and the memorial service at the clubhouse. Steve was very moved by all the community support.

Barb was my cousin but we were more like sisters as we were raised next door to each other. Barb fought scleroderma for 21 years.

Top 40 Professionals 2015



Blair Post, HAS, BC-HIS, ACA
Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences
American Conference of Audioprosthology

*Being the
Go-To Guy*

One of our clients, I'll call him Charlie, came in for his routine clean and check and shared a story with me.

His home-owners association (HOA) meetings was the other night and he noticed for the first time that he had confidence with his hearing. He knew what was being said, by whom, and about what.

When he said it, I was rather puzzled. Charlie has been wearing his new hearing aids for a few months. I know some HOA's don't meet during the summer so I asked him, "weren't you going before?"

He clarified, "yes but this was the first time I noticed my confidence. It was the noticing of my confidence that changed."

I asked, "What happened that you noticed this time?"

He answered, beaming, "I became the Go-To Guy."

Honestly, I was hesitant to ask what he meant since he said it in a way that seemed I should understand, but I had to ask, "What is a Go-To Guy?"

"I'm the guy in the group that the other men ask what was said. I'm the guy sitting in the HOA meeting that the other men around me turn to and ask what was said. I'm now the Go-To Guy.

"I've been attending these meetings for years, and I always sat behind someone in case I needed help understanding what someone said. This past meeting I sat in the front and about half way through a neighbor tapped me on the shoulder and asked me, what did he say? I answered him turned around and realized that I had become the Go-To guy."

If you ask your neighbors what was said during meetings, call us to evaluate your hearing.

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INSERT

Janice Van Dyke

If you are a new resident, have a correction or addition to the 2015 Resident Directory, please fill out the insert in this newsletter and return it to me. You can put it in the box on the stage at the clubhouse, deliver it to my home 106 Oleander St. or email it to me at jm.vandyke@comcast.net. I work on the Resident Directory all year. It is only as complete as the information you provide me. Leslee gives me new residents names and address only.

MEDICAL SHED

Donna & Jerry Loveless are back and now are in charge of the medical shed It has wheelchairs, walkers, bicycles, toilet seats, bath seats, etc. Items you might need or can use if you have company with children. If you need anything, please give them a call at 941-484-4089.



SALVATION ARMY

Tony and Jamie Best take food to the Salvation Army weekly or biweekly. Please leave your donations in the colorful boxon the stage at the clubhouse. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

IS YOUR HOME FOR SALE?

Steve Rollison

Is your home for sale? You may want to list it (free) on BayLakeEstates.org. Just send us some digital photographs,a description of your home, and the sales particulars such as contact name and phone number, etc. It's best if you can email all that to us at ble@steverollison.com.





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There are craft kits available for Veterans. The free Craft and Art kits are: number painting, moccasins, model cars, leather kits, etc. You must have a VA card as proof of veteran. You are eligible to receive two kits.

•TIME: 9-12 • WHERE: Bay Lake Estates Mobile Home Park Club House WHEN: 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesday of every month.

BOOK CLUB

The Bay Lake Estates Book Club will meet in the library in the clubhouse at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16, 2015, to discuss the book *The Girl on The Train* by Paula Hawkins. Any resident of Bay Lake Estates is welcome to attend. There will be a sign-up sheet in the clubhouse. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Conley at connie-joe@junocom or (941) 412-3444.

THANKS AND FAREWELL

Grace Gagliardi

As we prepare to move to our new house, John and I sincerely thank all those who have wished us well. We will miss you all!

Special thanks are due to Carol Gilchrist for organizing the musical farewell at the Association Meeting on November 3rd. We were touched by the sentiments expressed, and appreciated the time and trouble taken by the musicians. It meant a lot to us.

We will always remember our time in Bay Lake Estates, the fun and camaraderie. You won't find finer folks anywhere than our friends in the park. Thanks for the memories; our heart felt best wishes to all.

TRIPS

Sylvia Richardson

Jan 23rd-31st

Carnival Conquest-
Grand Turk, Curacao, & Aruba.

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Feb. 28th-March 6th

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April 26th- May 6th

Celebrity Solstice

Fly to Hawaii then cruise around 4 of the islands and end the cruise in Vancouver, British Columbia Canada.

This cruise is with Tammy at AAA. When booking your cruise please let them know you are with Bay Lake Estates so the agent can book our rooms in the same area. Any questions call Sylvia Richardson 941-480-0208.

COMPREHENDING COMCAST

by Steve Rollison

Are you a Comcast customer? If so, you probably know that they have some customer service shortcomings. The company recognizes that, too, and steps are being taken to address a variety of problems.

On November 9th most of our Saturday morning coffee get-together time was given to Brenda Radford, a Community Account Representative from Comcast. Her purpose was to determine if Bay Lakers were facing any customer service shortcomings that she was not

...continued on page 6

already aware of and that Comcast was already working to resolve.

Brenda has been with Comcast only three months, so she was not able to provide answers to many of our customer service questions. However, she wrote those questions down and promised to get back to us with answers.

Brenda had a second reason for visiting us on Saturday; she wanted to find out how much we already knew about Comcast's online support services and help channels.

She discovered that few of us are aware of the variety of "apps" available from Comcast. Between the apps and features of their website, you can do things like report service problems; start, stop and suspend services; order new services.

Apps are available for computers (i.e. Internet Explorer, Chrome, etc.) as well as Apple and Android smart phones and tablets. We will probably develop "classes" for each

of these and conduct them at Computer Clinic sessions.

Something else that was news to many of us is the existence of a special support structure in place to help "Bulk Community" customers. That includes us because Comcast negotiated contract terms with ELS that cover all of us – thus we are a "community."

So... for any problems that in the past you would have called customer service about, instead call the Bulk Community customer service number, toll free (below). It is intended to get us better and faster service.

(855) 510-1609

Finally, Brenda told us about a web page that could save some residents a ton of time and aggravation. You no longer have to go to a Comcast office to seasonally suspend or restart your services. Instead, just point your web browser to www.comcastseasonal.com and put your Internet, television and phone on hold.

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CHRISTMAS DINNER

by "The New Guy on the Board," Steve Rollison

Christmas dinner is one of the ELS-sponsored events of the year, so we expect to have some good eats as usual. Unfortunately... so far, no one has volunteered to chair the event, so we can't provide any of the particulars like date or time.

How about you??? Might you be willing to chair this year's Christmas get-together? You have probably noticed that the same handful of people seem to head up nearly all of our events and activities.

There's just one problem with that, and it can be explained in a single word: "burnout."

Burnout means it ain't fun anymore, and when it stops being fun the volunteers stop volunteering. Without volunteers, the events and activities **die**.

Now that's not necessarily a bad thing. If fewer and fewer residents find the Home

Owners Association events and activities alluring, the board would be foolish to continue sponsoring them.

Undeniably, attendance at our parties, dances and dinners has diminished in just the short while that Susan and I have been residents. Is that because, as a number of people have theorized, the demographics of our community have changed significantly?

Maybe. Many of our new residents work part-time or even full-time. Many seem to be younger than our "average resident" from just two or three years ago. There are probably other, more subtle changes in demographic characteristics that we have not recognized.

So has attendance at our parties, dances and dinners dropped because our "new demographic" is just not interested in those things? Maybe. The truth is that we don't know, because we haven't figured out an effective way to survey our residents about why they

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have or haven't been attending our functions.

Something else we don't know is whether or not a growing number of our long-time residents have stopped attending functions regularly.

Maybe attendance has been dwindling simply because residents are getting bored with the same old functions year after year. (Last year's flamingo races, which we hadn't run for several years, seemed to generate quite a bit of excitement and brought in a reasonably large crowd.)

As the newest member of your HOA's board of directors, I am very interested in discovering why our attendance has been dropping—so we can make whatever changes are necessary to put the "fun" back in our functions.

I would consider it a personal favor if you would share with me sometime soon your opinion about why attendance has been dropping. I would find your opinion especially

valuable if you yourself have attended functions regularly in the past, but less so the last year or two or three.

In the mean time...

Our dinners continue to be very popular when ELS is ponying up for the main entre! That will be the case again this Christmas, which brings me back to my original reason for writing this article what has now turned into a small novel!

Please consider volunteering to chair this year's Christmas dinner. There are plenty of other residents who have chaired lots of events, and if this would be your first "chairmanship" we can set you up with someone who will provide you all the guidance and help you need.

Please see any board member to let us know you might be willing to step forward. We promise to get you all the support you need.

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COMPUTER CLINIC

by Steve Rollison

STAYING CURRENT WITH FORUMS AND BLOGS

The October Computer Clinic article provided some information about Internet forums, and gave some tips on how to locate, access and use them. This article similarly addresses Internet blogs.

You may recall that a forum is a virtual gathering place on the Internet for members to discuss their shared interest.

A “blog,” on the other hand, is a website where the owner of the website (the “blogger”) can share insights, opinions and recommendations about a topic. A blogger usually writes something for the blog on a regular basis—generally daily, weekly or every other week.



The process of putting a piece of writing on a blog is called “posting,” and the piece of writing itself is called a “blog post.”

Bloggers often allow their readers to “post” comments about what the blogger has written and/or about comments other readers have posted.

Any doofus with a computer and Internet access can start up a blog. It is technically quite easy. But before making his first post, Mr. Doofus should develop an entertaining writing style and/or learn a lot about a topic that people are interested in. Otherwise the only people who are going to bother reading his blog are his best friends and his mother.

A popular blog can develop quite a large following. The Huffington Post is the most popular blog on the Internet. It draws 110 million reader-visits each month. (Not coincidentally, it sells a lot of advertising and makes a lot of money.)

So what subject matter makes good fodder for blogs? If you run a Google search for “most

popular blogs” you’ll discover that topics of the 15 largest blogs include news, current events, business tips, software reviews, humor, and tips on making daily life easier.

Now that you know what forums are and what blogs are, which should you use? That depends on what you want to accomplish. If you’re trying to find the answer to a tricky or involved question, a forum would probably serve you best. If you’re looking for a way to stay on top of a topic, as you might if a relative has contracted a rare disease, a blog might be a better option.

If it’s a blog you need, start your search with Google, being as specific as possible. For example, “blogs about racing thoroughbred horses.”

One final thought. If you’ve been trying to figure out what “blog” stands for... it’s not an acronym. It’s the joining of the two words “web” and “log.”

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John Bleistein 12-03 Aris Rouleau 12-19
Raylene Baugh 12-04 Charlotte Callahan 12-20
Robert Smith 12-04 Deanna Decko 12-21
Louise Gascoyne 12-07 Donna Reese 12-25
George Phelps 12-08 Roger LaCasse 12-26
John Van Dyne 12-11 Joe Soentko 12-26
Carol Gilchrist 12-12 Billie Watters 12-28
Joan King 12-12 Sherry Van Dyke 12-28
Randy Snyder 12-12 Carolyn Cook 12-29
Jamie Best 12-13 Ron Douglas 12-31
John Gagliardi 12-13

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Peter & Paula Morrissey 12-07
Bob & Lorna Malavolti 12-13
Keith & Diane Steare 12-13
Larry & Diane Brock 12-14
Michael & Deborah Morris 12-17
George & Rebecca Phelps 12-28

We do not have everyone's birthday and/or anniversary month and date. If you had a birthday and/or anniversary in December and we missed listing you, please contact Janice at 483-1043 or jm.vandyke@comcast.net. If you are a new resident or have a phone book change, please contact Janice.



DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 BLEA MEETING 9 AM BRIDGE 1 PM	2 COMPUTER CLINIC 1-3 PM BINGO 7 PM	3	4	5 COFFEE 9 AM HAND & FOOT 12:30 PM SCAT 7 PM
6	7 HAND & FOOT 1 PM	8 CRAFTS FOR VETERANS 9-12 BRIDGE 1 PM	9 COMPUTER CLINIC 1-3 PM BINGO 7 PM	10	11	12 COFFEE 9 AM HAND & FOOT 12:30 PM SCAT 7 PM
13	14 HAND & FOOT 1 PM	15 CRAFTS FOR VETERANS 9-12 BRIDGE 1 PM	16 COMPUTER CLINIC 1-3 PM BINGO 7 PM	17 BOARD MEETING 9 AM	18	19 COFFEE 9 AM HAND & FOOT 12:30 PM SCAT 7 PM
20	21 HAND & FOOT 1 PM	22 FIRST DAY OF WINTER CRAFTS FOR VETERANS 9-12 BRIDGE 1 PM		24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 COFFEE 9 AM HAND & FOOT 12:30 PM SCAT 7 PM
27	28 HAND & FOOT 1 PM	29 CRAFTS FOR VETERANS 9-12 BRIDGE 1 PM	30 COMPUTER CLINIC 1-3 PM BINGO 7 PM	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE		

ACTIVITIES ON THIS CALENDAR ARE FOR
BAY LAKE ESTATES RESIDENTS AND THEIR GUESTS

RESIDENT INFORMATION FORM

Janice Van Dyke

I am currently working on updating the BLEA information records. These records are strictly for park use. There have been emergencies when we didn't have the phone numbers to contact a person. That is also why the Northern information is also important. (The office is not always open when emergencies happen.) Please fill out this form if you are a new resident or have changes to our current information. You are welcome to drop them off at our home 106 Oleander St. or email me the information at jm.vandyke@comcast.net.

NAME(s) (all residents):

BIRTHDAY (Month/day)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

NAME (s) & PHONE NUMBERS (s) YOU WANT IN PHONE BOOK

(We do list cell phone numbers)

1. _____
2. _____

ADDRESS _____

OWN _____

RENTYEARLY _____

BIRTH STATE _____

ANNIVERSARY (if applicable- month/day) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (we will list it in the phonebook if you give us your permission) YES _____ NO _____

NORTHERN ADDRESS (if applicable).

"

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