



# The Oak Tree

## President's Message

For the past six months, we have all been very much involved with the COVID-19 pandemic and the dangers that it presents. Fortunately, our area has had an extremely low incidence of the virus and hopefully will continue to do so in the future.

However, it is important that we not lose sight of the fact that the hurricane season is upon us and we need to adequately prepare for a potential storm event which may well be compounded by COVID 19 and related sheltering issues. The following hurricane information is not meant to be all inclusive but rather a starting point in regard to preparing for a hurricane and safety both during and following the storm. A hurricane has the potential to be a deadly force of nature, so please do not become complacent. It is imperative that you understand the power of a severe weather event and act accordingly.

### Pre-Storm Preparation:

- Fuel up cars and purchase fuel for generators, chain saws & other tools
- If you have a gas grill, fill propane tank
- Charge cell phones and other devices
- Have a sufficient amount of cash on hand – Small bills are preferable.
- Purchase and become familiar with a NOAA\* battery operated radio
- Make early decision whether to “stay” or “go”. **While** you can.

\* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### Exterior of Home:

- Cover windows with shutters or plywood
- Prior to storm season, have all large trees pruned and thinned and have all yard debris removed from property
- If you trim your trees yourself, do not place any tree branches at the curb immediately prior to a storm.
- As storm approaches, be sure that there is no yard waste, recycling or trash at the curb
- Secure all garden decorations, hanging flower pots, flags and other “loose” objects from the exterior of your home
- Secure all outdoor furniture, grills, potted plants and pool accessories on patios and lanais.
- Do not under estimate the potential force and destructive power of hurricane force winds and a possible storm surge

*Continued on Page 3*

## GHMA Meeting Schedule

The Board of Directors of the Grand Haven Master Association (GHMA) meets on the next to the last Friday of every month (unless otherwise noted.) All property owners are welcome to attend.

WHEN: 2 PM, Friday, August 21 \*  
2 PM, Friday, September 18  
2 PM, Friday, October 23  
2 PM, Friday, November 20

WHERE: Creekside Amenities Center  
2 North Village Parkway

\*Until further notice, meetings are held via teleconference. Contact Southern States for details on how to participate.

## GHMA Board Members

President	Rob Carlton	447-5536	rjcarlton5@aol.com
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## The Oak Tree

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	Ann DeLucia	Anne Scuito

**The Oak Tree is always looking for articles with ideas and topics for future issues, especially those that would be of interest to Grand Haven residents—Grand Haven activities, clubs, happenings, sporting events, resident volunteer activities and opportunities.**

Please contact Nancy Carlton at [ncarlton096@gmail.com](mailto:ncarlton096@gmail.com) with your suggestions

## Don't Forget To VOTE

Remember these dates:

**Primary Elections**—Tuesday, August 18

*Several non-partisan races may be decided*

**General Elections**—Tuesday, November 3

Grand Haven residents registered to vote in Flagler County may do so at the Grand Haven Room at the Grand Haven Village Center  
7 AM to 7 PM

For more information about the candidates visit [flaglerelections.com](http://flaglerelections.com)

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## President's Message...continued

### Following a Storm:

- Be aware that snakes and other various critters were also seeking shelter during the storm and may have found it on or close to your property
- During the clean-up process, be mindful of the extent and duration of the work involved. Be aware of your limitations. Clearing yard waste can be as strenuous as shoveling snow.

### Yard Waste Disposal Process:

- Soon after the storm danger has ceased, a one time "pass" will be made by the CDD contracted debris removal company. If your storm debris is curbside at that time, it will be removed. They will not pick up bagged yard trash during this pass.
- Following that "one time" pass, the City of Palm Coast and their waste removal contractor(s) will be responsible for the pick-up and disposal of yard waste. They will pick up bagged trash.
- Following the "first pass" all concerns regarding yard waste pick up should be directed to the City for further action.
- Please do not put your yard waste on or in front of unimproved lots. Doing so creates multiple problems for all involved.
- All additional information regarding post storm clean-up will be provided via E-Blasts at the appropriate time.

I urge all of grand haven residents to "hope for the best but prepare for the worst." Let's all stay safe and healthy in the coming months.

Submitted by: Rob Carlton, GHMA President



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## CDD CORNER

It is important to know that the composition of the CDD Board is about to change significantly. By year-end, there will be three new supervisors out of five. One of those seats may be replaced before publication by a board-vote to fill the seat vacated by Tom Lawrence who resigned. Seven residents have applied for that seat.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, voters will choose another two new Board members to replace Steve Davidson and Ray Smith. We will miss these two gentlemen who have contributed so much to our community over the years. There are two candidates running for each seat. David Paukovich and Michael Flanagan are running for one seat with Merrill Stass-Isern and Ken Ersbak for the other.

The contract work at the Village Center is complete with just some punch list items to be addressed. Readers will remember that the primary objective was to fix a serious water intrusion problem by replacing parts of the roof, all the stucco siding, windows and windowsills.

Additional work on the Village Center will be starting soon to replace the ceilings in the main entranceway and pool perimeter, replace the wooden columns around the same perimeter and install attractive new doors to the office, café and fitness center.

The ceilings are failing because an inferior product was originally installed however the new composite wood product will look great and be low maintenance with a long-life span. The old wooden columns around the pool area will be replaced with fiberglass ones that will include two-foot stone columns under each. Lastly, new stained-glass doors will be installed to cap off a great new look at the Village Center. This work is expected to start right after the contractor gets permits from the city. Keep in mind the city approval could take up to three more months given slow-downs caused by the Covid virus.

Separately, the new Tuscan themed landscaping should be started and may be close to completion by the time this article is published. I think we can all agree this will help transition the Village Center from a construction site to a finished project.

All will be pleased to know that work to repair the gazebo at the end of Montague and the piers will be starting around the first of August. There is a lot of work needed on the gazebo given the poor wood condition around

the entire structure. Construction is expected to take 6-8 weeks; weather permitting.

*Submitted by: Kevin Foley, CDD Supervisor*

## WOMAN'S RIGHT TO VOTE



I hope this article finds everyone safe and well. As a resident of Grand Haven, and the current co-President of **AAUW Flagler**, I wanted to share that we are celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of “Women’s Right to Vote” and are selling these lovely ornaments to help fund **AAUW Flagler** scholarships. Each ornament is made in the USA and Etched in Solid Brass. (Note: **AAUW Flagler** Branch will receive a portion of the sale price.)

AAUW is the *American Association of University Women*, and it has been advancing Equity for Women and Girls in Flagler County since 1984. Over the past 36 years, it has awarded over \$225,000 in scholarships to 234 recipients, and this year alone, it awarded \$1000 scholarships to three Flagler County High School young women, and one Continuing Education award.

Like all organizations, it has had to postpone many fundraising activities, but with a purchase of this beautiful ornament, you are celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and helping support local young girls, and women in achieving their dreams. If you would like to find out more about **AAUW Flagler** and/or becoming a member you can check us out on: [Flaglercounty-fl.aauw.net](http://Flaglercounty-fl.aauw.net) or on Facebook: [AAUWFlagler](https://www.facebook.com/AAUWFlagler).

To order your ornament you may contact: Linda Russell @ 386-446-4162 to purchase by credit card or mail your check payable to **AAUW Flagler Branch** c/o Linda Russell, 32 Welling Lane, Palm Coast, FL 32164. Each ornament is \$20.00.

We thank you for your time, donation, and support.  
*Patti Paukovich and Marty Butler, Co-Presidents*

# GRAND HAVEN MILITARY MEMORIAL

Following the 2019 Grand Haven Memorial Day ceremony, three of our residents, Rob Carllton, Wil Hessler and Bernie Hollenbeck, came together to explore the feasibility of creating a more meaningful Military Memorial for the community. An unofficial committee was formed and began meeting to share ideas and explore options. As creative ideas flowed, it became apparent that what had begun as a relatively simple idea, had kind of taken on a "life of its own" and had morphed into a significant and costly project. As plans progressed, the role of each committee member was agreed upon, with Rob being responsible for site planning and development, Wil being responsible for acquiring the monument and benches and Bernie would be responsible for accounting and the memorial brick program. Following a relatively short but intense period of research the three settled into their respective roles, a tentative design was developed, a tentative site was selected and they agreed that it was time to "go public" with their plan.



A presentation was made at the next CDD meeting, which included the overall concept, design and location for the memorial. The CDD Board embraced the plan and generously agreed to provide the labor for the project. In time, Rob fine tuned the design, Wil had contacted Craig Flagler Palms Funeral Home, who generously agreed to not only to assist with the design of the monument, but also to provide it to the community at an extremely low cost. The final hurdle was the funding of the various materials that would be needed to complete the project and it was decided that this was to be for the entire community and therefore contributions were solicited from members of the community. As is always the case when requesting community

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participation, the response was one of generosity and support. Within four months the committee had reached its fund raising goal and within the projected timelines, the project became a reality. The final phase of this project, a field of memorial bricks has begun and the residents of Grand Haven now have the opportunity to purchase, for \$25.00, an engraved brick commemorating the service of any former or current military member. For further information regarding the ordering of engraved bricks, please contact Bernie Hollenbeck at [bhollenbeck@earthlink.net](mailto:bhollenbeck@earthlink.net)

This project could never have been completed without the support and generosity of the residents of Grand Haven. It has a very special meaning to those who created it and it is hoped that it will proudly stand for many years to come as a tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of those who served our country, those who returned and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. To each and every one, this monument stands in their honor.





# The Turtle Trail

## DISCOVER THE SMALL JOYS TUCKED IN THE CORNERS OF OUR COUNTY!

The popularity of the Palm Coast Arts Foundation’s public sculpture campaign, The Turtle Trail, continues as more installations are on the horizon. We are thrilled that the Turtle Trail has been added to the office of Tourism Development’s website under *Things to Do* in Flagler County. Launched in May 2018, we chose the loggerhead to recognize these indigenous “mascots” and honor their existence with a dedication of great artists of our past, and to educate and remind us of the fragile eco-systems of our community.

Have you met the latest on the Trail? “Vincent” was sponsored by Grand Haven residents Patti and Dave Paukovich and created by GH



resident, Jan Jackson, Curator of the Grand Living Realty Gallery. Our first Van Gogh, Vincent (#9) can be found nestled near the entrance of the Palm Coast Community Center on Palm Coast Parkway. “Nancy Marie” (#10) will debut at the Palm Harbor Golf Course in the Fall; and our first “Greek” turtle, “The Winged Victory” (#11), is scheduled for an October installation at the Ham-



mond Justice Center in Bunnell. Another turtle on the horizon sponsored by Tomoka Eye will be an incredible addition along with a turtle being discussed for the Government Services Building. There are many sites for consideration in the County; reach out if you would like to sponsor your own turtle on the Trail.

Each turtle teaches us a simple fact about the artist and their impact on the various art movements of history. Their transformation is magical.

The pandemic has affected us all. The medical benefit of engaging in the arts has been well recorded. Feeling blue from all the changes in our lives? Experience the joy of the Turtle Trail. Make a day of it, find them all, and choose a favorite (if you can!).

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*Relax...  
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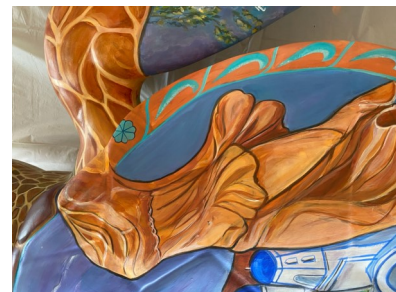
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To keep the arts alive in our community, we need you. Not-for-profits have been hit especially hard. Gifts of any size help; we rely on the goodwill of our members and patrons. I know there is no stronger commitment to the arts in Flagler County than right here in Grand Haven!

Submitted by: *Nancy Crouch, Executive Director*  
[www.palmcoastartsfoundation.com](http://www.palmcoastartsfoundation.com)



Winged Victory #11

## The Eagles Nest

Another nesting season has concluded with great success. Parent eagles, Samson and Gabrielle (Gabby), successfully raised two robust eaglets, Romy and Jules. They were a treat to view through the season and quite entertaining.

Jules mirrored her mom's dominant personality. She was the first to branch at the nest tree and soon fledged (first flight) at 11 weeks. Often the first flight is an oopsy, but Jules showed great strength, as her flight was focused and fully intentional. She confidently left the nest area that day.



On the other hand, Romy took his time, as he seemed to love his nest home along with the room service dad provided. He fledged at 12 weeks. Dad continued to provide

for Romy, as Romy remained close by and returned to the nest off and on until he left the area at 15 weeks.

Gabby left the area on June 25. Samson made a quick stop at the nest on July 9, and he was later seen on July 13. It's likely he may stay in the area year around. He gives us every reason to believe he is the new resident male! High expectations Gabby will return to her mate this fall.

Kudos to Samson and Gabby (first time parents) who gave their two offspring a great start. We wish our 2020 fledglings "mighty meals" and safe travels, as they fly the skies as independent eagles they were meant to be.

*Submitted by: Gretchen Butler  
Audubon EagleWatch Nest Monitor/Volunteer  
American Eagle Foundation/Volunteer*

## Professional Home Renovation Projects

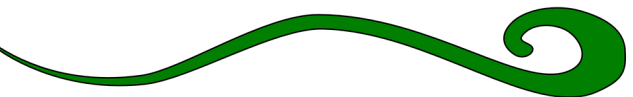
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## Colbert Lane Sidewalks

As residents and homeowners living in Grand Haven, we are so fortunate to have the many amenities to exercise. Whether we walk, ride our bicycle, play tennis, play croquet, swim or whatever other form of exercise we wish to do, we have the facilities right in our backyard.

Many of us also venture outside of Grand Haven to exercise. Flagler County has provided us with many parks, paths and trails to walk and ride our bicycles. If you have visited Waterfront Park, just North of Grand Haven, you know exactly what I am talking about. The wonderful path that borders the Intracoastal Waterway is lovely to look at and easy to maneuver as you take in the beauty of the water and landscape along the way, either by bicycle or on foot.

However, there is a catch. With wonderful facilities, comes maintenance. If you have been on the sidewalk that runs parallel to Colbert Lane, you understand. The sidewalk has been damaged by the utilities vehicles that drive over it. The 7 plus miles of sidewalk that run from Palm Coast Parkway to State Road 100 have many damaged concrete sidewalk slabs. And, with damaged slabs, comes the chance for injury. One could trip and fall which could cause injury or perhaps even death. It is a very serious issue.

Flagler County personnel have been advised of the concerns and have been very receptive in their response. Many of the slabs have been replaced or repaired just south of the South entrance of Grand Haven and, as of this writing, work continues on other parts of the sidewalk.

And, again, as of this writing, I have been assured that the repairs are being addressed and will be completed in the very near future. Take a walk or bike ride along Colbert Lane and look at the wonderful repairs that have already been completed. Safe exercise everyone!

Submitted by: Tom Byrne





# Palm Coast Historical Society

## FOUNDER'S DAY - October 29, 1970

Fifty years ago Paul McCartney announced that The Beatles were breaking up. Later that year International Telephone and Telegraph held the Grand Opening of its Welcome Center in the newly created community of Palm Coast. The background music played to arriving visitors was "Here Comes The Sun" written by George Harrison.



The festive opening of Palm Coast's first building occurred on October 29, 1970 and featured Florida Governor Claude Kirk as the guest speaker. That date has since been known as Founder's Day. The 64 foot observation tower was equipped with an elevator to provide visitors with an unobstructed view of the work in progress which included nine model homes, a golf course under construction, and the dredging operation in progress to create a main canal to connect with the Intra-coastal Waterway.

Earlier in the year ITT had purchased the former Animal Land attraction on A1A in the Hammock to use as a land sales office. That building is now part of the Flagler Technical Institute. Prospective buyers were driven to a small dock on the east side of the ICW. From there they were taken by boat to the emerging Welcome Center. Pre-construction land and home packages started at \$13,000.

The Palm Coast Historical Society, established in 2000, is planning to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our community's Founding on October 24, 2020 at the Community Center on Palm Coast Parkway. It's unknown at this time whether the celebration will be held live and in-person or virtually via the internet. Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at [palmcoasthistory.org](http://palmcoasthistory.org) for details.

Submitted by: Kathy Reichard-Ellavsky



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**GrandHavenGC.com/GHWC9Dine**  
**email: maureenpellegrini@gmail.com**



## **Neighborhood Watch**

Living here in our beautiful Grand Haven community, within our relatively quiet Flagler County, we rightly feel very fortunate, especially during such challenging times this year. With the Covid-19 virus spreading around us, we thank all of you who are continuing to check on your neighbors, noting what is happening in your neighborhood and offering assistance. Neighborhood Watch encourages neighbors getting to know each other, keeping our areas safer by sharing information, noticing changes and saying something if you see something of concern. Neighbors working together build a safer, caring community together. We can continue to do this and still socially distance safely for all. Many neighbors are walking and biking, doing many activities outside, and thoughtfully thinking of the health and safety of others as we hunker down here for the duration. Thank you!

It is with sad hearts that we share the sudden passing of Pat Maloney who served as the Neighborhood Watch Captain for her community, The Crossings, keeping residents encouraged and well informed over many years. She was also a valued and significant member of The Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee bringing her ideas and expertise to the committee, helping design, implement and strengthen our Neighborhood Watch programs. Pat will be missed by many.

Happily, Grand Haven continues to be a community of very low crime incidents. The few crimes reported tend to be crimes of opportunity, and can often be avoided with awareness and some focus. We know that crimes tend to recede in areas where neighbors communicate with each other, and share information and insights. By simply staying alert and observant as we come and go, noticing anything amiss or irregular with our neighbor's homes or property and taking a moment to check on it,

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we all keep our community safer. Something as simple as noting newspapers piling up, packages delivered and still at the entrance the next day, cards still hanging on front doors, trash cans not being pulled back well after collections, all are often alerts that there may be a problem. It warrants checking on.

The Florida Attorney General's Office alerts us that there are new scams continuing to emerge during the corona virus pandemic intended to take advantage of people. Please be careful and do check the link below:

<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2020/coronavirus.html>

*Submitted by: Colette Moran*





## Look For The Helpers!

While this phrase is credited to Mr. Rogers, it is a phrase being used by many in our community these days. There have been many casualties of the Covid-19 virus. First and foremost, of course, are the lives lost. Then we talk about small business owners, restaurants, cruise and airline industry...and the list goes on. But in all of the newscasts that I have watched over the last 4 months, no one has mentioned one sector of the economy that has suffered, The Nonprofit Community.

For many people who were struggling prior to the pandemic, the nonprofit organizations in the community were the ones they were turning to for help and support. Those organizations are, for the most part, dependent on funds raised through events and activities that have had to be canceled. Now they turn to individual donor contributions to help them meet the needs of their clients who need those services more now than ever.

If you would like to help nonprofit organizations who are struggling to serve those in need, here are some you might consider:

**Flagler Family Life Center** offers shelter and assistance to families of domestic abuse  
[FamilyLifeCenterFlagler.org](http://FamilyLifeCenterFlagler.org), POBox 2058, Bunnell, FL 32110

**Flagler Free Clinic** provides medical and dental care to uninsured and low income residents  
[FlaglerFreeClinic.org](http://FlaglerFreeClinic.org), PO Box 863, Bunnell, FL 32110

**Flagler County Education Foundation** providing masks, lanyards, shoes, socks, underwear and toiletries to students in need  
[FlaglerEdFoundation.org](http://FlaglerEdFoundation.org), 1769 E. Moody Blvd, Bldg 2, Bunnell, FL 32110

**Grace Tabernacle Food Pantry (Feed Flagler)** provides food to families in need, to homebound community members and backpacks of food on Fridays to students to feed them for the weekend  
[gracecommunityfoodpantry.com](http://gracecommunityfoodpantry.com), 5400 E. Highway 100, Palm Coast, FL 32164

**Habitat for Humanity** has an urgent need for used working refrigerators and appliances  
Contact Habitat Restore to pick up your used working appliance.  
[ReStore@flaglerhabitat.com](mailto:ReStore@flaglerhabitat.com), 386-437-9855

Palm Coast United Methodist Church (**Our Father's Table**) provides weekly dinners to homeless and needy residents

**PCUMC**, 5200 Belle Terre Pkwy, PC, FL 32137, Att: Our Father's Table, [mseyfert@mysticclothing.com](mailto:mseyfert@mysticclothing.com)

**St. Vincent de Paul** assists needy with utility bills, food and clothing

St. Vincent de Paul, PO Box 1328, Flagler Beach, FL 32136

Submitted by: Nancy Carlton

## Grand Haven Woman's Club

The Grand Haven Woman's Club, like many other organizations, has had to cancel events and many meetings since March for obvious reasons. However, the commitment to the mission to *"have a positive impact on the lives of people in our community"* has been uninterrupted. The GHWC committees and volunteers are planning what will happen when we are all able to come together again.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Nine & Dine is scheduled for Saturday, November 9 with a 2:30 PM Shotgun Start, which we feel confident can take place given it is held outdoors. For more info on this event, contact maureenpellegrini@gmail.com. We are planning the Annual Day of Games on Monday, January 18; however, this year there will be a limited number of attendees due to social distancing. Contact Marcia Bugos at [ma-bugos@gmail.com](mailto:ma-bugos@gmail.com). For more info on both of these events, visit [GHwomansclub.org](http://GHwomansclub.org) and click on Event Registration.

While we all look forward to all being together again, the GHWC will continue to support nonprofit organizations in the community based on need and demand for their services. If you would like more information about the GHWC or to stay up to date on its activities, visit [www.GHwomansclub.org](http://www.GHwomansclub.org).

## MADC Corner

My previous article centered on first-time color selection for your home or making a color change on an existing home. I discussed the LRV (Light Reflected Value shown on reverse side of the manufacturer color chips) being 80% for light colors and 25% for earth tones.



### Hints

1. If you are refreshing existing colors there is no need to contact the Architectural Design Committee
2. Consider your roof color as an integral part of your color scheme
3. Paint 2x2 ft. squares on a sunlit area of exterior wall. Examine your color choice in sunlight to confirm that your selections meet your expectations.

This article spotlights paint finishes and areas to use those finishes in order to meet Grand Haven Standards. Finishes come in flat, semi gloss, satin and gloss. Note that satin finish has slightly more sheen than semi-gloss. The names of paint finishes vary widely between paint manufacturers. Spend some time on your picks. Yes, there are more decisions for you to make.

Here's a checklist from the GH Standards to help you get it right the first time.

- Paint all exterior walls, columns, and trim with flat or satin paint only.
- Banding is to be the same color and finish selected for the house trim. Trim and banding may be a contrasting color.
- Exit doors are to be painted the same color and finish as exterior walls; this includes homes with banding.
- Garage Doors are customarily semi gloss or gloss.
- The main door may be painted or stained a color different from other color selections. Options are flat, semi gloss/satin or gloss.
- A third color is permitted for accent only.

If it's a "Repaint Job", you are lucky. There are no color choices to make. Just make sure that you comply with

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the proper finish standard. Also, please replace the house number. All residents must have Arabic house numbers attached to the front of the home that are clearly visible from the street. House number color must stand out from the body color.

*Submitted by: Leigh Jackson, MADC Chair*





## No Rest for the Wicket

Hi all, I hope everyone is staying safe, well, and active.

The **Grand Haven Croquet Club** had many events planned this Spring and Summer, but they had to be postponed because of the pandemic. When Grand Haven CDD implemented that the community could start using the amenities again, we were able to play on the two courts with 10 people at a time. With that said, the club was able to celebrate **National Croquet Day** on June 6. We came together as a club, (but socially distanced), had fun, played six wicket, and golf croquet. And a special thanks to Pat Kaufman for dressing all the wickets in Covid masks, Dorothy Silliman and the rest of our Social



Committee who pitched in to make this a fun event.

We were able to get a nice socially distance group photo for the occasion and posted it on the USCA website. The Grand Haven Croquet Club photo was selected by the USCA as the club winner for the 2020 National Croquet Day. The photo beautifully depicts the spirit and energy of Croquet Day in the COVID-19 era. Congratulations on winning!

The club wants to welcome our newest member Jane McLain and returning member Nancy Beneducci. Welcome all! Like all clubs and organizations, we've lost and gain members. We had some members move away or found other hobbies and activities to explore. We will miss them, but I'm sure they will find their way back to the Croquet club.

If you find you're having a hard time playing golf, tennis, or pickleball, or just want to keep active, make new friends, and have fun, check out the **Grand Haven Croquet Club**. For more information on the **Grand Haven Croquet Club** visit our website at [www.ghcroquetclub.com](http://www.ghcroquetclub.com) or contact Membership Director John Fitterman at [jfitterman@gmail.com](mailto:jfitterman@gmail.com).

See you on the courts!

Submitted by: Patti Paukovich



Hi there, I'm your neighbor! Thinking of buying or selling? If so, give me a call, and put my 15 years of experience to work for you. I would love to help!



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## Critter Corner

### Fox Trotters

Florida is home to both red and grey foxes. Foxes are mostly nocturnal though they are not afraid to venture out during the day. Averaging between 10 and 14 pounds, both are about the size of a small dog. The red fox prefers upland grassy fields; the grey fox is more secretive and likes heavily wooded terrain. The grey has a salt/pepper coat with white belly.

Though belonging to the canine family, foxes, like cats, stalk their prey, are capable of retracting their claws and have catlike vertical pupils, helping them see at night. The grey fox is the only member of the dog family that can climb trees to escape predators or to seek prey.

A male is a dog, a female is a vixen and a baby is a kit. A group of foxes is called a skulk. Foxes mate for life and a vixen usually bears five kits. While she babies her babies, father provides food for the family.

Foxes keep rabbits, rats etc. under control and they will eat most anything that is edible. They prefer fruit to vegetables and they generally do not raid hen-houses. They do not attack humans unless, like any wild animal, they are cornered or are rabid, which is rare. They prefer to avoid humans, which behavior probably earned them their “sly” reputation.

Valued for their beautiful fur, 85% of their pelts come from foxes kept in captivity in small dirty cages. To preserve the fur, electrocution is often used to kill them. New York State bans this practice, as written in the bill “anal and genital electrocution is a severely inhumane way to bring about the desired death; it causes a protracted and painful cessation of life for the animal.” With so much “genuine” faux fur available perhaps we should avoid all animal skins!

Submitted by: Anne Scuito



**Street Tree Canopy** – Trimming of the street tree canopy is a continual maintenance item. Selective pruning on a regular basis will continually prohibit limbs from interfering with street and/or sidewalk traffic. The minimum heights are: 7 feet over the sidewalk, 9 feet over the curb, 11 feet over the traffic lane and 14 feet over the crown of the road.

Important information regarding sidewalks – As you may already be aware, the maintenance and repair of all portions of the sidewalk pads installed on your property, as required as part of the initial construction of your home, are the sole responsibility of you, the homeowner. This includes any deflections and/or lifting in any and all areas of the sidewalk that may result in a tripping hazard. Owners are also responsible to keep their portion of their sidewalk free of mold and mildew stains which can cause a slippery environment and also becomes unsightly over time.

**Lake Bank Maintenance** – Each owner living on a detention pond needs to continually maintain their lake bank. Each lake bank (where there is not a concrete stem or retention wall) was originally developed and planted with spartina grasses. These are the feathery bushes or clumps of grass about 4 feet tall that were planted to keep the lake bank from eroding. **REMEMBER** – if your spartina has died or is not there, then you will need to replant them. It is each lake bank owner’s responsibility to preserve those spartina grasses and keep the lake bank free of weeds, vines and/or wild growth. This maintenance responsibility is best accomplished with regular monthly attention.

If you have questions about any of these items, please contact *Troy Railsback* at 386-446-6333.



## Vista Par Condo Update

I believe that it is fair to say that the property owners of Grand Haven have been extremely patient in regard to snail's pace progress towards completion of the two existing Vista Par buildings. However, it appears that we may be seeing some light at the end of the tunnel.

First of all, I wish to point out that the GHMA Board had been monitoring the progress of both the construction phase and the undeveloped property phase of this project on a regular basis. In addition, these updates are periodically reviewed with corporate counsel to determine if any Board action was viable.

At the current time, the site consists of two buildings in differing stages of completion and an undeveloped portion of approximately an acre and a half that could accommodate two additional buildings. The CDD had recently expressed an interest in purchasing the undeveloped portion of the property and was involved in contract negotiations. Their thinking was that the property could be used in some manner to serve the needs of the members of the Grand Haven community. As I had reported at a recent GHMA Board meeting, the two parties could not come to terms and the negotiations ultimately failed.

However, I recently had the opportunity to tour the project and speak with both construction and sales personnel. I would like to share their input and my observations with you.

For the sake of discussion, the building on the right as you face them is closest to completion. It is fully dry walled, painted, trimmed and three of the four ground level units have cabinets and appliances installed. The entire building is fully wired with operational lights and air conditioning. According to construction personnel, that building, including parking and landscaping should be completed, with a sales office open, no later than the end of this year.

The building on the left is in a less finished state. Although the wall studs are in place, the dry wall has not yet been installed and therefore no further interior progress has been made. In addition, the exterior of the building remains unpainted which seriously detracts from the overall appearance of the project. I was told that it was anticipated that this building is approximately nine months from completion. It should be noted that the windows and sliding doors in both buildings are in the process of being replaced in order to be in compliance with current building codes.

Prior to the end of my tour, I requested that all deficiencies in the perimeter fence be corrected and the fence be covered with an opaque material that would prevent a ground view of the site. In addition, I suggested that moving ahead with the painting of the exterior of the lesser finished building would enhance the view of the overall project as would periodic mowing of the property.

According to the sales agent, there have been a number of inquiries regarding the availability of these condominiums and potential buyers anticipating their completion.

Well, that in a nutshell, is the Vista Par update. I understand that we have all heard progress reports and completion dates in years gone by and you have every right to be dubious. Hopefully, work will progress towards completion on these unfinished units and before too long, we will be able to refer to them as "residences" rather than "units".

*Submitted by: Rob Carlton, GHMA President*



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