

The Oak Tree

President's Message

YOUR INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

I believe that a vast majority of the residents of Grand Haven have few regrets concerning their decision to reside here and enjoy all that our community has to offer. After all, the homesites and common areas are well maintained, the amenities are top of the line and there is no end to the number of activities, clubs and groups available to one and all.

In addition, with the purchase of your home, you become a member of the Grand Haven Master Association. You elect the Board of Directors, are welcomed at all Board meetings to observe Board functioning and if you wish, address the Board.

You are not only invited to participate in Association activities by volunteering for one of the Board committees, but your involvement is also necessary to the daily functioning of our community. Yes, I understand that you may be retired and now get to choose how you spend your time. Spending a few hours a week volunteering to assist the community that provides so much enjoyment is a very good way to ensure that lifestyle will be maintained in the future.

There are two standing committees that support the Master Association. The Modification Architectural Design Committee (MADC) and the Fine Committee. In addition, there are a limited number of volunteer positions as Architectural Design Committee Inspectors. These are not positions created at the whim of the Board but rather, are mandated by either the State Legislature or our governing documents. Each is necessary to maintain the design and quality of the Grand Haven lifestyle you enjoy today.

The MADC reviews owner requests for changes in the exterior of their property to ensure the request is consistent with the ADC Standards and our governing documents. The Fine Committee presents an opportunity for every property owner who may have had a fine imposed by the Board, to address a committee comprised of five residents and explain why that fine should not be imposed. The ADC Inspectors fulfill an important function by ensuring that projects which have been completed are in compliance with the previously submitted plans.

Without a quorum, committee meetings cannot be held, nor can inspections occur without enough volunteers. In essence, in the absence of volunteers, the process required to maintain the consistency and positive appearance of our community could be impaired or in the worst-case scenario, not be functional. The majority of our owners purchased homes in a deed restricted community to ensure that lawns would not be adorned with pink flamingoes or

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

GHMA Board Members

President	Rob Carlton	447-5536	rjcarlton5@aol.com
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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 with your suggestions

It's not so much what
we have in this life
that matters. It's
what we do with what
we have.

Fred Rogers

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President's Message...continued

that their neighbor would not be repairing cars in their driveway. The MADC serves that purpose.

Volunteers are not needed in large numbers. At times, none are needed and at other times, two or three at most. However, when the committee process is interrupted due to an insufficient number of members, it quickly has the potential of resulting in a negative impact upon all of Grand Haven.

Please consider contributing some of your time and energy to the community you enjoy so much. We simply cannot do it without you. You will receive training and become more informed regarding the way the Master Association functions. In addition, you will have the opportunity to be part of a productive and supportive group of property owners who are contributing to the community we enjoy so much. Together, we can ensure that Grand Haven continues to be one of the premier communities of Flagler County.

*Submitted by: Rob Carlton, President
Grand Haven Master Association*



**Please Obey
30 MPH Speed Limit
And
STOP Signs**

As you know, Grand Haven is a very active community with walkers, cyclists, e-bikers, runners, etc. Also, many of our streets are narrow and curvy, creating blind spots.

In an effort to keep everyone safe, we urge you to obey speed limits and **STOP** signs.

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SMILE...PHOTO TIME

Did you know **Grand Haven** has a **Photography Club**? We do and it's an amenity for all residents to participate in, to share their photography and learn how to become a better photographer. Membership in the club is free.

If you would like to learn how to take photos with your cameras or cell phones, this is the club for you. It meets on the third Monday of each month in the Grand Haven Room, starting at 4:30PM.

The club is led by Bob Carlsen, a Grand Haven resident. Part of his career was working as a professional photographer and he has spent 50+ years photographing just about everything that came in front of his cameras. For over 20+ years he's taught photography techniques to hundreds of people in both New Jersey and Florida. While living in New Jersey he was a photography instructor at Unique Photo in Fairfield, NJ. He was a printer of Giclee photographs for both photographers and professional artists, printing on paper and canvas.

Recently Bob led two groups of members to the Southeast Museum of Photography in Daytona Beach, to learn the techniques of great photography. Additional trips are planned to St. Augustine museums and to the Butterfly Rainforest in Gainesville, FL.

If you would like additional information, please contact Bob at this email address, grandhavenphoto-club@gmail.com.

Submitted by: Grand Haven Photography Club





Neighborhood Watch

MISSION STATEMENT

The Grand Haven Neighborhood Watch Mission is to promote the awareness and education of residents in support of crime prevention.

The Goal of Grand Haven Neighborhood Watch

Our organizational goal is to enhance safety and support a peaceful environment for all Grand Haven residents by coordinating with local, state, and other professional organizations to build community-wide awareness through relevant classes, access to information, and localized communications.

We cannot complete the mission without YOU!

Many villages have no representation. If you are a people person and can send out emails, we could use your help!

To see how you can make a difference contact;

Lisa Mrakovcic

386-447-4063

Lisa_mrakovcic@hotmail.com

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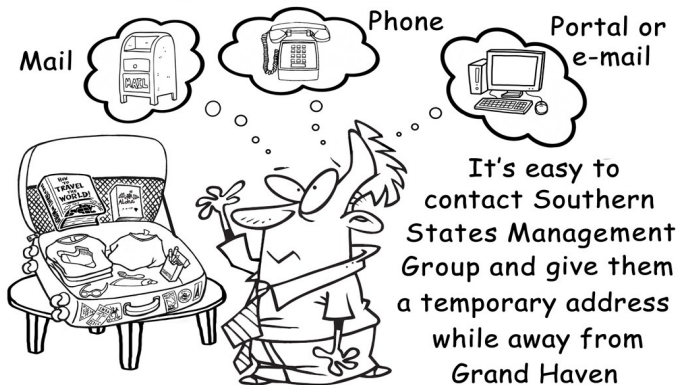
thecottagehairsalon.com

Owner: Leslie Vannucci

Did you know?

As a property owner in Grand Haven, it is your responsibility to keep your home and landscaping maintained as required by the Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions and the ADC Standards. If you are a "snowbird," or away from your property for an extended period of time such as a long vacation, business trip or even a family emergency, the Governing documents still apply. Your neighbors expect the deed restrictions to protect them from continuously looking at an unsightly property next door or across the street. Sadly, mail forwarding by the US Post Office has proven to be unreliable at times, so the GHMA asks that you provide the Association's management company, SSMG, with your away address.

By law, letters of concern regarding non-compliance must be mailed to the property owner. If you will be away for more than two weeks, please contact SSMG and provide them with a valid mailing address where you can be reached and, if possible, any other useful means of contact.



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CDD Corner

New Community Development District (CDD) Board members and District Manager (DM)

With recent changes to the CDD Board and operational restructuring this is a good time to review.

A Community Development District (CDD), is a special-purpose local government entity created to manage and finance a community's infrastructure and services. Not to be confused with an HOA. As a government entity, the CDD must comply with specific laws and regulations.

The CDD Board consists of five elected residents; each seat carries a four-year term. Your current representatives are:

Seat 1 Richard Mayor (Vice Chair) appointed in April to fill the Nov. 2022–Nov. 2026 term after Steve Brazen resigned in February and elected unopposed for the Nov. 2026–Nov. 2030 term.

Seat 2 Dr. Merrill Stass-Isern (Chair) serves a term from Nov. 2024 to Nov. 2028.

Seat 3 Kevin Foley serves a term from Nov. 2022 to Nov. 2026. This seat will be on the ballot in the Nov. 2026 election.

Seat 4 Janet Greenwood was appointed in June to fill the Nov. 2024–Nov. 2028 term after John Chism resigned in May.

Seat 5 Kathy Myers appointed in June to fill the Nov. 2022–Nov. 2026 term after Nancy Crouch resigned in March and elected unopposed for the Nov. 2026–Nov. 2030 term.

Howard "Mac" McGaffney is the new District Manager, replacing David McInnes of Vesta and Vanessa Stepniak was promoted to Director of Operations with expanded responsibilities.

The restructuring eliminated the operations manager position, reassigned responsibilities for the District Manager and his team, and is expected to reduce costs. Its primary goal is to improve operations by completing tasks faster, more effectively, and at lower cost.

A key goal of the new board is to strengthen transparency and communication, and efforts are already underway. If you have questions, please contact the CDD office or any CDD Board member.

Submitted by: Richard Mayor, CDD Vice Chair

Eagles' Nest

It's that time of the year when the nest is vacant, as the eagles are off enjoying their summer hiatus. However, activity offered important milestones this past spring. Gabby and Beau's offspring, Eve and Kai, both had successful fledges. Then they left the area on April 13 (Eve) and April 16 (Kai). Gabby departed on April 30 and Beau on May 17. So, the nest stands silent. Here's a tribute to Gabby and Beau . . .



The eagle's nest stands silent
Their annual labor done,
They've proven themselves worthy
Two nestlings raised, they've won!

As wandering eagles pass by
Without a word they'd say,
"This territory is taken
You'd best be on your way!"

Returning home as fall awaits
They'll breathe a quiet sigh,
United again in courtship
They'll dance across the sky.

Speechless through December
Atop that Slash Pine Tree,
They patiently anticipate
Their hatchlings soon-to-be.

Then just before springtime
Their youngsters fully grown,
They branch with hesitation
And soon they both have flown.

The eagle's nest stands silent
Yet has so much to say,
We pray they soon return again
As we await that special day.

(Tribute by: Jim Weller and Gretchen Butler)

Submitted by: Gretchen Butler

Audubon EagleWatch Nest Monitor/Volunteer (19 yrs)

American Eagle Foundation/Partner/Volunteer (14 yrs)

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MADC Corner

A WONDERFUL PLACE TO LIVE

When driving around Grand Haven have you ever thought how wonderful our community is? We have beautiful Spanish Moss hanging from the Oak tree lined streets and beautiful views of the golf course. You will also admire the beautiful homes, gardens and lawns.

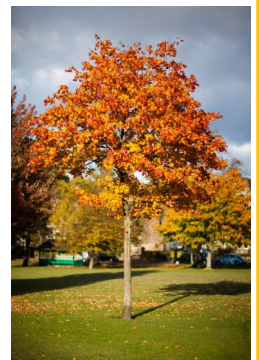
One of the reasons it remains a beautiful place is your MADC (Modification Architectural Design Committee). Its purpose is to maintain the beauty of the homes and personal properties in our community by assuring any changes requested from homeowners meet with the ADC Standards. It makes sure changes will not infringe upon neighbors, villages and the whole of Grand Haven. In addition, this also helps to maintain your property value.

The committee consists of your fellow homeowners who have volunteered to serve as members of the MADC. They are appointed by the GHMA (Grand Haven Master Association) and serve for a one-year term. Committee members may volunteer for subsequent one-year terms, subject to the approval of the GHMA.

So, when you drive, bike, run or walk around Grand Haven and admire the beauty of our community, remember the MADC has helped keep it this way, for you.

If you ever think you might like to give something back to Grand Haven and serve your community, please think about serving on the MADC. You are cordially invited to attend any meeting, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, starting at 9:00 AM, in the Creekside building. Come on down and see how the MADC works for you.

*Submitted by: Robert Carlsen
Chairperson, MADC*



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Florida-Friendly Landscaping

Is Your Irrigation System Helping...or Hurting?

Walk your landscape every week. Notice what's changed. Are plants wilting? Is one area staying wetter than another? Are there broken sprinkler heads, dry spots, or areas where plants are struggling?

During irrigation, notice whether water soaks into the soil or runs off into the street or storm drains. In Grand Haven's sandy soils, water should normally soak in quickly. If you see runoff, it's an indication that something needs attention. Your sprinklers may be watering the street, driveway, or sidewalk—as well as your landscape. Florida law also requires automatic irrigation systems to have a functioning rain- or moisture-sensing shutoff device.

Water is one of Florida's most precious natural resources, and using it wisely is one of the nine principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™. A common watering mistake is applying too little water too often. Instead, water deeply and infrequently to encourage strong, healthy roots. Healthy roots are grown with deep watering—not frequent watering.

Let your landscape tell you when it needs water. Wilted leaves, footprints that remain visible in your lawn, blades that begin to fold, or a bluish-gray cast are all signs that irrigation may be needed. Before watering, check the soil a few inches below the surface. If it's still moist, let Mother Nature do the watering. Water during the cooler early morning hours when evaporation is lowest.

Newly installed trees, shrubs, flowers, and sod have different watering needs. Current St. Johns River Water Management District regulations provide special establishment allowances for new landscaping. Hand watering with a shut-off nozzle and drip or micro-irrigation are excellent ways to establish new plants. Because irrigation regulations can change, always follow the current requirements of the St. Johns River Water Management District: <https://www.sjrwmd.com/wateringrestrictions/> and the City of Palm Coast.

This Month's Florida-Friendly Principle – Water Efficiently

In Florida, we all live on waterfront property. Every drop of water we save—and every drop we keep clean—helps protect our aquifers, rivers, springs, estuaries, and the wildlife that depends on them.

Submitted by: Veronica Reinhardt, UF/IFAS Master Gardner

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OUR NEWEST PROGRAM

Did you hear about our latest program, “Connections”?

What is it?

A program that focuses on low pressure social connections and lifestyle assistance.

What is the goal?

To reduce isolation and promote independence and wellbeing for Grand Haven residents.

How does it work?

Volunteers assist neighbors who are participants in the program.

What are the services provided?

Check-ins: the participant and volunteer agree upon the manner of connection – call, text, personal visit and frequency, while remaining independent.

Skill sharing: volunteers assist participants with technology, simplifying one’s lifestyle, or locating needed services and resources.

Shared activities: volunteers and participants share common interests such as games, gardening, cooking, plays and local events, enjoying common interests together.

How can I become involved?

If you are interested in becoming a participant or volunteer, or need additional information, contact the Connections Coordinator, Bob Ziel, by phone or text at (561) 315-9301 or email at robertziel@yahoo.com.

Submitted by: Jim Morelewicz



grandhavengc.com

Palm Coast SENIOR GAMES

September 11—October 4, 2026

Registration is Now Open

*One of the most exciting
sporting events of the year
open to ages 50 & up*

Events include golf, tennis,
pickleball, basketball, archery
and table tennis

Palmcoast.gov/newsroom/home/details/2026-senior-games

Embracing Your Inner Crone

I ran into a neighbor at the mailboxes recently. She's in her 80s, a little bent, a bit broken, but strong and straight as rebar. Her Mona Lisa smile never lacks for lipstick, and her wit arrives before you finish your sentence. Ask about her latest travails and she waves you off. Pshaw.

Another friend, survived incredible odds growing up and now manages a chronic condition by showing up at the gym twice a day...where she somehow *cheers me* up. Her spirit runs on adoring grandchildren in New Jersey and dry humor — and when that runs short, she gives you a sharp eyebrow raise, as if to say, really, hon? She's the most authentic person I know.

These are some of the Crones of Grand Haven. I aspire to be one of them.

Some hear "crone" as an insult. I hear honor. Elizabeth Gilbert calls the crone a figure from folklore — the keeper of wisdom, vision even in blindness, and no fear of death. Which means, as Gilbert puts it: no fear.

No fear? Sign me up.

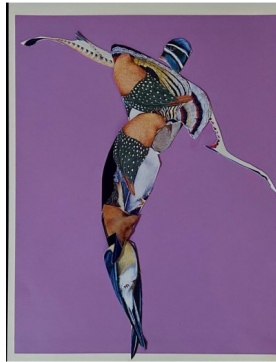
Many women of Grand Haven, grateful for this warm, connected community carry that same wisdom, self-acceptance and purpose. They've shed outdated expectations, and they're unapologetic about the truth.

Georgia O'Keeffe and Maya Angelou were quintessential crones, producing some of their most celebrated work late in life. It's fearless and uncompromising. I feel braver just typing that.

Pema Chödrön turns hard-won wisdom into teaching you can actually use, laced with humor that's gotten my husband and me through some heavy stretches. And Martha Beck describes aging not as decline but as a homecoming...a chance to shed judgment and meet your own radiant, ageless self.

So maybe I'm not there yet. But there is grace at every mailbox, fearlessness in the pool, and authenticity at the gym.

Submitted by: Linda Lake



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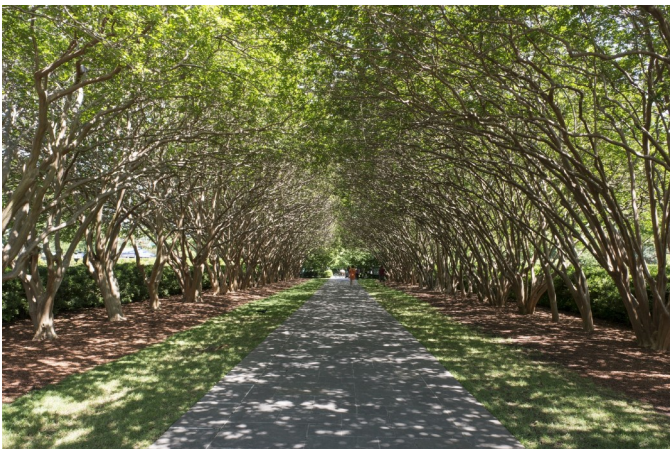
Let's make and keep Grand Haven grand!! Excellent efforts by all to keep your property well maintained and in great shape. As we come out of the summer and go into the fall/winter, please make sure:

- Any sidewalk and driveway deflections are addressed
- Lake banks are maintained and have the required amount of spartina (if applicable)
- Your street tree canopy is lifted and in compliance
- Mold/mildew/rust from hard surfaces (driveway/walkway/sidewalk) and the exterior of your property (walls/soffits/roof) is removed
- You are regularly only parking in your driveway and/or garage
- Yard Waste (and/or garbage/recycling) is placed at the curb on the appropriate day (no earlier than the day before designated pickup day)

Having all these items continually tuned in this fall/winter will make the Grand Haven community really shine!! And as always, if you are planning on making changes to the exterior of your property and/or landscaping, please contact our office to go through the approval process prior to making any of those changes/improvements you are considering.

Naturally, if you have any questions regarding the above items and/or any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 386-446-6333.

*Submitted by: Troy Railsback, Community Manager
Southern States Management Group*



Wildlife of Grand Haven

The Intracoastal Waterway Region Late August Through Fall

Grand Haven, along the Intracoastal Waterway, is part of a dynamic wildlife corridor from late August through Fall. As the summer heat lingers into September the protected brackish waters and marshes support more activity among unusual wildlife species. You may see foraging adult sea turtles – loggerheads, greens, leatherbacks and even Kemp Ridleys. They access the Intracoastal through natural inlets connecting to the Atlantic Ocean. Their nesting season on the beach runs through October.

West Indian manatees, large gentle aquatic mammals, are more closely related to elephants than to whales or dolphins. They love the warm water and stay around through September when the water gets cold. They winter over in Silver Springs, Florida near Ocala where the water is crystal clear and warmer. Manatees are charismatic and loveable creatures, grazing on sea grass and gently surfacing for air, poking their whiskered snouts just out of the water. Here in Grand Haven they seem to have two favorite spots in our Intracoastal Waterway, each one near a park bench at the edge of the water so you can see them easily.

Our year-round Bottlenose dolphins are often swimming energetically or serenely hunting in pods along the edge of the waterway near docks, especially during the Fall fishing runs. They are playful and like to interact with humans.

Bird life explodes with migration along the Intracoastal. Fall brings waves of warblers, vireos and waders funneling down the Atlantic Flyway. You will see herons, ibis, egrets and ospreys. You may also see bald eagles. The Intracoastal serves as a vital stopover, with mixed flocks creating spectacular displays.

Late August into Fall offers Grand Haven a front-row seat to nature's vibrant Intracoastal Waterway show. How fortunate we are!

Submitted by: Barrett Ashton Anders

Grand Haven Woman's Club

The Grand Haven Woman's Club closed out its 2025-26 year in May with great success. Thanks to all who supported the Club's events, 27 charitable organizations received \$80,000 in contributions this past year. In addition to the funds raised through events, GHWC donated over \$59,000 worth of supplies that were collected from the community on our meeting days. A huge **THANK YOU** to all residents who helped us achieve these results to improve the lives of those in need in Flagler County. GHWC members also provided over 13,863 hours of volunteer service to many organizations in Flagler County as well.

We also changed administrations in May, thanking our outgoing officers, especially Awilda Hamilton, who ended her successful term as President. We also welcomed Gail Naworal as our new President, who will serve the two year term through May 2028.

While the word count for this article does not allow us to name all of those who chaired events, community service projects and committees, let it suffice to say that GHWC is definitely a team effort. With over 200 members, GHWC is fortunate to have a plethora of diverse talent engaged in its numerous activities.

If you enjoy fun activities that also raise money for charitable organizations in the community, please get your calendar and **SAVE THESE DATES**:

November 6, 2026 – Bingo

November 10, 2026 – Diabetes Education Event

January 22, 2027 – Day of Games

February 27, 2027 – Mallet Madness

March 13, 2027 – Denim & Diamonds

April 17, 2027 – Nine & Dine

May 1, 2027 – Kentucky Derby

More information about these events as well as collection days for donated items for the local organizations in need will be eblasted through the Amenity Center emails, so please stay tuned for those. If you are interested in sponsoring any of these events, please contact Carol Walker, walkercarol1410@gmail.com

More information about the GHWC is available on the website at GHwomensclub.org. Membership is open to all women residing in Grand Haven.

PINK ARMY

5K

OCTOBER 4, 2026

Grand Haven Woman's Club member, Marcie Leonard, invites GHWC members and Grand Haven residents to participate in AdventHealth's 5K walk & 1 mile pet-friendly walk.

You can join our group ~ Bosom Buddies ~ when you register at PINK5K.COM. You can also register by calling 386.986.2323. Fee is \$40 ~ use "EARLYBIRD" code for a \$5 discount ~ EXPIRES AUGUST 30th.

Scheduled start times are 7:45 am for the 5K walk and 8:00 am for the pet-friendly walk. Prior to the race, festivities will include Survivors Strut.

If you have any questions, please contact Marcie ~ marcie0802@aol.com
call/text 914.474.8383.

PROTECT OUR DUNES THEY'RE MORE THAN JUST SAND

What are dunes?

1 Beach dunes are barriers that protect our coastline from erosion and storm surge. After the recent renourishment, the beach may look different, but the dunes are essential in safeguarding the shore and our community.

Why are they important?

2 They defend against storms by reducing flooding, and preventing erosion. It is also wildlife habitat that holds a diverse ecosystem.

What you can do to help.

3 **STAY OFF THE DUNES! USE DUNE WALKOVERS!**
Walking on dunes damages its structure. Share this post to spread the information!

Stronger Tomorrow.

4 Vegetation will soon be planted to further stabilize the dune, or sand fencing will be erected. Until then, we need your help to protect our coast!

Croquet News

It may come as a surprise that several members of the croquet club volunteer to move the wickets on a regular basis to keep the courts in optimal playing condition. Why do we have to move the wickets? Good question. After several weeks of play, a groove begins to form in the center of the wicket from balls resting in that spot, which is commonly called a “rabbit run”. This makes it harder to go through the wicket or causes some balls to fall into the groove, giving players an unfair advantage. We carefully measure the distance and move all the wickets the same amount. This is just one way that we make sure the courts are ready for play.

On April 16 – 19, Grand Haven hosted the Flagler Cup American 6 Wicket Tournament. Fourteen players battled for 4 days with 7 Grand Haven residents enjoying the rare opportunity to compete without having to travel. The Championship Flight Doubles was won by Brett Fullerton and Gloria Gordon of Grand Haven, narrowly edging out her husband Peter Gordon and Mike Debitetto, both of Grand Haven 12–11. In the Championship Singles Flight, Michael Kukla from Sarasota defeated Brett Fullerton from Ponte Vedra 11-8. In First Flight Singles, Howard Chodak defeated Gary Gamble, both of Grand Haven 14-7. In Second Flight Singles Billy Roche defeated Mike Debitetto, both of Grand Haven 12-8.

On June 6th we celebrated National Croquet Day with the theme of “Wickets Without Borders”. Seventy-four players came out to join in the fun, including 26 residents not in the croquet club. Everyone dressed in outfits and brought food from their ancestral countries. Players received passports to get stamped from “traveling” to different countries in the form of skill challenges. The USCA awarded us the Diversity Award for the event and gifted us a set of Invictus croquet balls valued at \$600! An amazing end to an amazing event.



Mustang Club

The Mustang Club of Grand Haven is over 2 years old now. Membership is free and open to all Grand Haven residents owning a Ford Mustang.

The club informally meets, once a month, in a member's house. We take road trips about every 6-8 weeks to an interesting destination, traveling on roads through some beautiful Florida territory. The rides end at a destination restaurant where we enjoy a nice meal.

Our most recent trip was to City Gate Spirits and Meehan's restaurant in St. Augustine. Upcoming trips are to the Classic Car Museum of St. Augustine and Raglan Road Irish restaurant in Downtown Disney.

If you own a Mustang and are interested in the club, please email me at rcarsen64@gmail.com. We're glad to add you to our mailing list.



Submitted by: Bob Carlsen



Capital Contributions

You might have noticed in the Selected Highlights from the GHCCD Regular Meeting on June 18th, 2026, the following statement included in the Board of Supervisors Updates. *"The Board Approved creating a Fact-Finding Group to explore coordinating with the HOA regarding capital contributions on home sales. More discussion regarding this endeavor and the FFG's mission will occur at the July meeting."* At their July meeting, Supervisor. Foley recommended and the CDD approved to create and distribute a survey to property owners to gain feedback regarding their position on Capital Contributions.

I do not want to get ahead of the CDD but would like to provide some information regarding the concept and statutory requirements regarding capital contributions. Homeowner Associations have the authority either by their existing declarations or via an amendment to their existing declarations to charge a one-time fee, generally paid by the buyer of the home, which is to be used to ensure that the Association has sufficient reserves in the event that they are faced with unexpected emergency expenses. The fee may be either a fixed amount or a percentage of the price of the sale. There currently exist a number of HOA run communities in Florida which have capital contribution programs. Most often, the authority to do so was granted in the original declarations and included the sales of new homes as well as the subsequent resales.

A capital contribution stipulation does not exist in the current Master Declaration of Grand Haven. It would require the approval of 2/3 or 1267 of our 1901 property owners to amend that Declaration in order to establish such a program.

Just to clarify, the GHMA has never required the need for a capital contribution program, balancing our budget through a very modest property owners' annual assessment. When the CDD recommended the establishment of a Fact-Finding Group to explore this concept, they generously included a member of the GHMA. In response I volunteered to serve on the group in order to not only keep the GHMA Board informed but also to share my knowledge of our governing documents and provide input from the members of the GHMA Board.

As this process evolves, more information will be forthcoming from both the CDD and the GHMA. I implore you to stay involved in order to understand all the aspects and implications of a capital contribution program in Grand Haven.

*Submitted by: Rob Carlton, President
On behalf of the Grand Haven Master Association Board*

SMART of Flagler

When over 20 dogs were discovered abandoned along County Road 204 near the St. Johns-Flagler county line, SMART of Flagler Dog Rescue didn't hesitate. Director Caroline Johnson and her all-volunteer team responded immediately — and what they uncovered led to one of the most significant animal rescue operations in Flagler County's history.

Following a tip generated by a SMART-issued reward, investigators traced the dumped dogs to a Palm Coast home where 51 additional animals were removed from conditions that can only be described as heartbreaking. Ammonia-choked rooms. Years of accumulated feces and urine. Dogs with matted paws, severe allergic skin conditions, and haunted, fearful eyes — 67 dogs in total. SMART named this rescue operation 67 Healing Hearts.

Caroline Johnson, the tenacious founder and director who has dedicated her life to Flagler County's most vulnerable animals, coordinated care for every single one of them. SMART covered all veterinary costs — exams, treatment, rehabilitation — through East Coast Animal Hospital. Dogs were triaged, treated, and placed into loving foster homes. The fearful ones were given time. The traumatized ones were given patience. All of them were given a second chance.

Today, the 67 Healing Hearts are on their journeys to forever homes. Many have already been adopted. Others are still blossoming in foster care, learning for the first time what it means to be safe and loved.

But the 67 Healing Hearts are not an isolated incident. Dumped and abused dogs are arriving in Flagler County with increasing frequency, and SMART — operating entirely on donations without a permanent shelter facility — is stretched to its limits.

Caroline and her team are making miracles happen daily, but the mission demands more. SMART urgently needs a dedicated shelter facility to meet the growing tide of animals in crisis.

To adopt, foster, donate, or learn how to help SMART of Flagler build toward that future, visit
smartflagler.com



Submitted by: Kim Fitzgerald

GHMA NEWSLETTER

Grand Haven Master Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 354785

Palm Coast, FL 32135

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