

GRAND



HAVEN

www.grandhavenmhoa.com

Volume 6, Issue 4 Fall 2013

The Oak Tree

President's Message: Looking Back and Looking Ahead

I was recently reading through prior editions of the Oak Tree and the very informative articles describing the history of Grand Haven and its growth since its inception some fifteen years ago. During the eight years that my wife Nancy and I have resided here, the changes have been dramatic. For those residents who had moved here during the earlier years, the changes must seem almost unbelievable.

I can only imagine the community growing from a few homes, a limited number of Villages and virtually no amenities to speak of to where we are today. At the present time Grand Haven consists of 1900 platted lots with approximately 1625 of them developed and a total population of approximately 3900 residents. In addition, we have some of the best amenities available and a whole host of activities, clubs and organizations to serve the resident's needs. There is no doubt that we have come a long way but yet still have some growing to do.

In a way, it is like going from a small town to a small city. I am sure that in the earlier years, things were less complicated and less confusing. I would think that the residents knew one another, the rules were less cumbersome and the expectations were less complicated. The reality is that growth brings many positives to a town or a community but on the other hand, it also results in increased structure and sometimes the necessity to place the needs of the majority over the needs of the individual.

Over the course of time, it has become necessary to deal with problems and issues very different from those experienced during the infancy of our community. I would think that early on, the problems associated with multiple construction sites, the development of the Villages and the building of the amenities were of primary concern. As our community grows, issues have shifted to include an increasing number of residents with more diverse needs, personalities and expectations.

In addition, as our community ages, the problems associated with the passage of time also arise. To name but a few, we are facing the need to fund the repair of failing infrastructure, improve the appearance of abandoned properties, deal with the problems associated with growing foliage and street trees and address the issues relating to the responsible maintenance of our retention ponds.

The Board of your Master Association has been committed to representing all of the residents of Grand Haven in as fair and equitable a manner as possible. I truly wish that I could say that we have been successful in meeting the needs of every resident. Unfortunately, that is not possible by any stretch of the imagination. However, our primary goal is to make decisions that are best for Grand Haven as a community and serves the majority of our residents. I believe that as we continue to grow, this should be our unwavering focus, as opposed to the needs of any specific Village, group of residents or special interest groups. It is my hope that as a valued resident of Grand Haven, you will appreciate the importance of this goal and support your Board in its future efforts towards its attainment and the resulting benefit to our entire community.

Dr. Robert J. Carlton, President
Grand Haven Master Association



GHMA Meeting Schedule for 2013

The Board of Directors of the Grand Haven Master Association (GHMA) will meet on the third Friday of every month (unless otherwise noted). All residents are welcome to attend.

When: 2 p.m., Friday, November 22, 2013
2 p.m., Friday, December 20, 2013

Where: Creekside Amenities Center in Grand Haven
2 North Village Parkway

eBlasts

Watch for eBlasts from the GHMA

In an effort to provide up-to-date information, the Master Association will be sending out periodic eblasts with information the community may find of interest. This is not an attempt to provide minutes of a meeting nor will this blast cover all topics discussed during any particular meeting. Complete minutes can be found at our website: www.grandhavenhoa.com.

GHMA Board Members

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

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The Oak Tree is always looking for help with ideas and topics for future issues.

Residents are encouraged to write articles about something they feel may be of interest to others - a Grand Haven activity, club, happening, sporting event, etc.



Keep a look out for your 2014 Annual Assessment coupon book. They will be mailed in November and should be received by December 1st.

Payment is due January 1, 2014. The GHMA Annual Assessment funds the enforcement of community Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs), facilitating the Architectural Design Committee (ADC) review process, management, accounting services, legal fees, insurance, newsletter/communications and all other operating costs of the Association, including periodic maintenance of foreclosed/deserted properties. The 2014 Annual Assessment is \$120.00.

Private Lawn Maintenance (PLM), Crossings and River Club Village assessment coupon books will also be mailed in November and should be received by December 1st. Each Village's respective 2014 monthly assessment is due the first of each month starting January 1, 2014.

Watch for information on the upcoming HOA elections. There will be two places open for the two year term starting early next year. Details on how to submit an application to run for office and how to vote will follow.

If you have any questions, please call 386-446-6333:
Troy Railsback (Ext. 307)
Lindsay Marriott (Ext. 310)

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Neighbor to Neighbor Program

DO YOU HAVE A NEW NEIGHBOR?

The Neighbor to Neighbor program is up and running. Since June 1st, we have welcomed over 50 new Grand Haven residents with almost 25 welcome visits pending. Our biggest challenge is identifying when residents actually move in. That is where you come in.

If you see someone moving in to your neighborhood, please let us know. Email me and let me know that a new neighbor has moved in and their address.

That way we can have one of our volunteers deliver a packet of helpful information and welcome the new neighbors.

Thanks!

Terri Langan (langanmhoa@gmail.com)

Grand Haven Master Association

Grand Haven Access

How do my visitors enter Grand Haven if they aren't on my Preferred List?

Visitors, family, friends, vendors, etc. may enter Grand Haven through the main gate in one of three ways:

(1) you put them on your permanent list of those allowed in to the community (this is done through the CDD office),

(2) you call the guard gate in advance (445-2376) and provide the name of the person coming to see you, approximate time of arrival and how long they will be staying if more than just that day,

(3) the guard will call you if a visitor arrives who has not been approved through steps 1 or 2. You will be asked if the person should be allowed to enter.

If your visitor arrives at the North or South gates, they can contact you through the call box. There is an alphabetical listing of all Grand Haven resident's last name. The visitor scrolls up or down until he or she sees your last name and then pushes the button next to your name. That button will call your home number. When you answer the phone, push the number 9 on your phone, hang up and the gate will lift permitting the visitor to enter.

Architectural Design Standards

How do I get my request approved?????

Often times, when the ADC receives a submittal, it is pretty cut and dry. Here's what I want to do; yes, that's okay. However, there are other times when the approval process isn't so easy. When the request has confusing or complicated issues, the more information supplied with the submittal, the easier it is for the ADC to make the correct decision on your behalf. And, if you show up at the meeting, when questions arise, you are right there with answers. Let me give you an example:

A homeowner submitted a request to remove a few trees. Looking at the paperwork, we didn't know if the trees were healthy or dying. To better understand the need to remove the trees, we requested an expert go to the property, examine the health status of the trees and report to the ADC why the trees needed to be removed. The report came back to the ADC that the trees were healthy and there was no reason to remove them. The request was denied.

At a later meeting, the homeowner came to the ADC meeting to appeal the denial. It was discovered that the homeowner had an erosion problem that needed correcting. The owner had to repair the landscaping by adding a large amount of fill to the area. Doing this would change the ground elevation at the tree bases causing them to eventually die. Because the homeowner came to the meeting, he was able to answer all of the questions. The request was then granted.

So, the moral of the story, **come to the meeting!** Be sure to complete the submittal paperwork properly and provide as much information as you can. If you have or can obtain a survey of your property, that's a great way to convey your ideas on paper...and a great way for the ADC to better understand your request. But, bottom line, **come to the meeting!**

The ADC is looking for ways to approve your submittal. The more information you provide, the smoother the process works. If you can do it, **come to the meeting!**

Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Creekside Amenity Center. The New Construction ADC meets at 8:00 AM, followed by the regular ADC meeting at 9:00 AM. The members of the ADC are your neighbors and friends and we are committed to provide fair and reasonable flexibility with regard to the approval process. We ask that you follow the standards to the best of your ability and ask questions if you are unsure of a particular requirement.

Both ADCs exist so that Grand Haven will continue to be a beautiful place to live. It is not the desire of either ADC to establish standards that are rigid and difficult to follow. The purpose is to provide standards that maintain the integrity of a community that is beautiful to live in and inviting to our guests.

A complete list of ADC members along with other pertinent information can be located on the Grand Haven website at www.grandhavenmhoa.com.

Tom Byrne
ADC Chairperson

CDD Corner

Keeping Grand Haven Grand Phase 2—Database Upkeep

In an effort to maintain a current resident database, please review the following procedures that will become effective as of December, 2013:

- **Current Registrations** – All GADs must have current vehicle registrations on file to remain active. Beginning in December, 2013, and monthly thereafter, the CDD office will begin contacting residents who do not have updated vehicle registrations with the CDD office. The first notice to residents will be sent via email, followed by a second notice sent by regular mail. Anyone who does not provide an updated registration will have their GAD's deactivated until current registrations are received by the CDD office. To make this process easier on residents and CDD office staff, please update your vehicle registration with the CDD office when you renew your registration with the state/country in which the vehicle is registered.
- **Current Rental Leases:** All rental properties must keep current leases on file. The CDD staff will begin reviewing and requesting updated leases in December, 2013, and thereafter on a monthly basis. For month to month leases, please contact the CDD office on a quarterly basis (January, April, July and October) to verify your tenant is still in the property. Any tenant, resident landlord or Property Management Company that does not provide an updated lease to the CDD office will have all GADs and SAACs for the property deactivated until the updated lease is received.
- **Information Updates:** Please keep the CDD office informed of any changes to your property information. Changes to property information including phone numbers, Pre-Approved Visitors Lists, email addresses, etc. Please remember, the security officers at the Main Gate CAN NOT accept changes to any of the above information. Any changes communicated to the security officers at the Main Gate will not be forwarded to the CDD office.

All changes, copies of leases, vehicle registration information or any questions regarding the above information can be forwarded to the CDD Office by:

- Mail: 2 North Village Parkway, Palm Coast, FL 32137
- Email: office@ghcdd.com
- Fax at 386-447-1131.
- In person: The CDD office staff is available to answer any questions in person at the CDD office Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 5:00 pm.

Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated as we move into this new phase of *Keeping Grand Haven Grand*.

Flagler County Sheriff's Department

Flagler County residents are preparing for gatherings with family and friends as the holidays approach. The Flagler County Sheriff's Office wants to remind residents of a few safety tips that will protect your valuables.



- Never leave packages or items of value in your vehicles. When you park your vehicle, remove purses, packages and other valuables, or place them out of sight in the trunk. Be sure windows are rolled up and doors are locked.
- Ladies should keep a close eye on their purses while out in the stores. Do not leave your purse unattended in a shopping cart, even for just a few seconds. Thieves can move quickly to remove wallets from inside the purse or snatch the purse itself.
- Many residents will be putting up holiday trees. Use caution when you place items under the tree. Avoid placing packages where they can be seen by thieves outside your home.
- If you are planning to be away from home for a brief vacation, contact the Sheriff's Office's Citizen Observer Patrol to have your house placed on the free "Vacation Watch" list. This dedicated group of volunteers will check on your home while you are away. To contact the COPs, call (386) 586-2621.

"Our goal is to have our residents take part in crime prevention in their communities," said Sheriff James L. Manfre. "The holidays can be hectic, but with a few extra steps, everyone can avoid becoming a victim of crimes of convenience."

Sheriff Manfre also reminds residents to never drink and drive. "Many of our residents will be attending holiday parties. Please have a designated driver and let's keep our roads safe during this season," said Sheriff Manfre. "And remember, it is against the law to text while driving."

For more information on crime prevention tips, visit the Sheriff's Office's website at www.flaglersheriff.com.





Tis the Season

The committee handling the Second Annual Grand Haven Holiday House Tour is pleased to announce that this year's tour will take place on Tuesday, December 3rd from 6:00-8:00 PM. Tickets are limited and will be on sale at the Village Center Office.

Special thanks to the Host Homeowners who agreed to open their homes and thanks also to all who will participate in this event to make it a success!

Project Share

It's that time again The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!! - Donations from the Grand Haven Community - thru the Rotary Club of Flagler Beach - to the needy families of Flagler County. The Project Share Big Red Toy Box will be located outside the Village Center Office now through December 13th. What to donate:

- New toys for ages birth to 16 yrs. old
- New and/or gently used bicycles
- Gift cards
- DVD's, music CD's, video games, etc.

Grandparent Helpers

If you are having grandchildren or little visitors and need an item for assistance, ex. high chair, car seat, etc., Peggy Smith has a list of people who have available items you may borrow. If you are already on the list and need to add or delete, please contact Peggy. If you are new to the club - or grandparenting - and have toys, kid articles, etc. and would be happy to share, contact Peggy. The list is updated when people notify her of changes.



Peggy Smith 986-1745 or bwpa4650@bellsouth.net

Oak Tree Volunteers Needed

Residents are encouraged to write articles about something they feel may be of interest to others - a Grand Haven activity, club, happening, sporting event, etc. - for this newsletter. You can also submit questions to The Oak Tree's Frequently asked questions column.

Proud grandparents

Sharon and Ed Gormley, Grand Haven residents since 2005, are very excited about their 8 year old grandson appearing in a major motion picture.



Aidan McLaughlin of Norfolk, Massachusetts was selected for a talking part in the upcoming movie "American Hustle" which is based on the true story of an FBI sting operation in the 1970's called Abscam which leads to the conviction of a U.S. Congressman. The movie was directed by Academy Award winner David O.



Aidan in film about Museum in Lowell, MA

Russell and the cast includes Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper, Christian Bale, Jeremy Renner, Amy Adams and Robert DeNiro. The movie will be released on Christmas Day.

Aidan's movie career started at age five after he was discovered on youtube.com reciting Herb Brooks' locker room speech before the 1980 USA vs. Russia Hockey Game. Google Miracle on Ice: Aidan McLaughlin

Aidan has a small part in "Sex Tape" a movie being filmed in Boston starring Cameron Diaz and Rob Lowe. He now has credits in five movies that he won't be able to see until he turns 18.

Super Scenic Garage Sale

The 5th Annual Super Scenic Garage Sale will occur on Saturday, November 16th. Friends of AIA have coordinated another 72 mile garage sale along AIA from Ponte Vedra Beach to Flagler Beach with vendor spots and vendors selling unique local items.

Regional marketing draws visitors from other states to the area to make overnight stays for the event. Last year's event was highly acclaimed and many shoppers wanted extended hours. To that end, the event this year will run from 8am until 5pm. Please know some sites may close early - especially if items sell out! Check out www.scenic1a.org for more details.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. I want to put up a bird feeder in my yard. Do I have to pay the ADC a fee and get approval?

A. The GHMA eliminated fees for minor changes last year, but approval depends upon what you are doing. Think of the reasonability criteria. A small birdhouse hung on a bush/tree in a backyard, blending in with the landscaping, and of a compatible color with your overall landscaping and house is not an issue. Planting a 15-foot post in your front yard, however, crowned with a bright yellow multi-stored bird condo that is visible to the entire cul de sac, would not be approved. But something in the backyard that falls between these two extremes could be approved, but an application is necessary. There is no charge for the application, which is required by the CC&Rs, and could save a resident a possible fine.

Q. Why did the GHMA start charging a food minimum to eat at the golf club?

A. The GHMA has no relationship with or authority over the golf club - nor does the CDD. Questions concerning the golf club, course, restaurant, or driving range should be addressed to Patrick Leahy, the General Manager of the Golf Club, at 445-2327.

Q. My neighbor's oak tree hangs so low over the sidewalk that I have to crawl to get by it when walking my cat. Can I take my machete and prune either the tree or my neighbor?

A. We recommend talk before machetes, specifically for trees and definitely before neighbors. From a courtesy and safety perspective, it is each homeowner's responsibility to keep the trees trimmed to a reasonable height (about seven feet) above the sidewalks. The first course of action is to suggest to the neighbor that it's time to trim. While we would never advocate it, some people have placed Christmas ribbons from low-hanging branches as a warning to other walkers. That has caused some neighbors to get the message.

Q. Golfers are coming into my backyard to retrieve their golf balls. I want to start a used golf ball business. Can I put a "NO TRESPASSING" sign up in my backyard to protect my source of supply?

A. Sorry, all signage requires approval from the Architectural Design Committee (ADC) and such a sign has never been approved. You could ask the ADC if they want to be partners in your business - that method works in Chicago. But, alas, not here.

Reprinted from an earlier edition of The Oak Tree with permission from Kenny O'Connor and Ray Smith

Christmas in Afghanistan *by Patsy Moden*

We have two announcements to make:

- Douglas Beaven (married to Heather, the daughter of Nancy Whitley, a former GH resident and realtor with Grand Haven Realty) was deployed in Afghanistan last year but will be home with his family to celebrate Christmas this year, and
- His transportation unit is looking forward to our Holiday presents.

So, on that note, we are happy to announce that once again, Grand Haven Realty will be sending Holiday packages to the 993 Transportation Company stationed in Afghanistan. Many of the soldiers Douglas was serving with have never received anything in the mail.



Here is a wish list from our troops:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Hot Chocolate Mix | Crystal Light Drink Mix |
| Trail Mix | Pringles |
| Nuts | Peanut Butter |
| Cookies | Socks |
| Coffee | Helmet Liners |
| Beef Jerky | Baby Wipes |
| Chocolate | DVD Movies |
| Paperback books | Cards |

Grand Haven residents that wish to help with this "operation" may do so by bringing unwrapped packages (in order to pass through customs) to the Grand Haven Realty office between December 1st and the 5th. The Realty office will package, post, and, yes, fill in the dreaded customs forms.

We look forward to seeing you again this year and with your help and generous donations, we can make *Christmas in Afghanistan* a little brighter this year.

Grand Haven Realty
7 Sandpiper Court at the Main Gate
386-447-0800



Ladies Self Defense Class No. 6

Congratulations to the ladies who completed the Self Defense class on Monday, September 30, 2013. This wonderful class is brought to you by your Neighborhood Watch team and the Flagler County Sheriff's Department. Thanks go out once again to Sgt Mike Lutz and his great assistants, Detective Annie Conrad and Detective Sam Bell of the Flagler County Sheriff's department for their untiring efforts to keep the ladies of Grand Haven safe from harm.



This is a first! Three generations receive their certificates after successfully completing the class. Congratulations Grandma Jean Poland, Daughter Melanie DiMartino and Mom Tammy McIlravy!

Action packed classroom activity helps the ladies learn to defend themselves from the attacker, affectionately called "The Dummy".

The ladies pose with their certificates and their Instructors from the Flagler County Sheriff's Department, Sgt Mike Lutz, Detectives Annie Conrad and Sam Bell. The class members are Yeva Reznik, Raquel Scornik, Tammy McIlravy, Melanie DiMartino, Jean Poland, Gabriella Tuscano, Judi Quayle, Gerry Wilson, Karen Kull, Eva Wesolowski, Trudy Kaiser-Hosey and Michele Orlowski. Not pictured, Iris Frankel.



We are not stopping at number 6. Be on the lookout for another class to begin in the New Year. It's a wonderful way to learn how to defend yourself.

And, it's free!

My Way Dinner and Dance Club

My Way is a popular dinner dance event held four times a year at the Clubhouse. Enjoy cocktails and appetizers in the bar starting at 6:00 PM and then dinner, live music and dancing at 7:00. Join the My Way Club and meet and greet your neighbors. The final dance of 2013 is Sunday, November 17th and it is their dressiest event of the year.

Contact Jim Lynch at mywayclub@aol.com for details about joining.



Nancy Richards and Eileen Weiner



Toby Tobin does the "Funky Chicken"



Entertainment by Beach St. A Go Go

Riverview Condominiums: Phase I

Tucked in next to the town houses are the Grand Haven community condominiums, which overlook the golf course, and are walking distance to the Village Center and the golf course club house.

Currently there are 48 units with 24 more under reconstruction next to the club house. Riverview Condominiums have their own Home Owners Association (HOA) in addition to the Grand Haven HOA, and are managed by Southern States Management Company. The complex is a mixture of full time unit owners and long-term renters as well as seasonal renters. Several units are currently for sale.

Historically, condominiums in Florida have fallen on hard times. The Riverview Condominiums are financially viable, have an effective and pro-active Board of Directors, are well maintained, managed and an excellent location for folks to enjoy all that our Grand Haven community has to offer.

The hammers you hear signal the construction of Phase Two (24 additional condominiums units) next to the club house. The two unfinished buildings have been an eyesore for years since the builder went out of business. Sales will be presented by Palm West Realty and should begin by early next year. Occupancy will be available sometime in 2014. The developer has an option for 24 additional units that could eventually bring the total Grand Haven community condominiums to 96.

If you have not seen or visited the condominiums, I encourage you to drive by and visit.

Chip Hunter
Riverview Condominiums HOA President
chipatlanticsouth@gmail.com



Guest Passes

In order to obtain guest passes, the owner of Grand Haven property must submit a letter of request, addressed to the CDD office, and include the name(s) of the guest(s) and date of their visit. The letter must be signed by the owner, include contact information for verification and a copy of their new Grand Haven Smart Amenity Access ID card. The CDD Office staff will verify the information and send authorization to the AMG office at the Village Center.

Requests may be sent to the CDD Office as follows:

- Email: office@ghcdd.com
- Fax: 386-447-1131
- Mail: 2 North Village Parkway, Palm Coast, FL 32137

Once the resident request has been authorized by the CDD office, staff will notify the Owner and advise that their guests should go to the AMG office at the Village Center to sign the appropriate documentation and receive the Guest Amenity Pass.

Grand Haven Women's Club

The Grand Haven Women's Club is off to another banner year and "Volunteer and Make A Difference" is the theme for 2013 and that is what the Grand Haven Women's Club is so ready to do. There are many local activities and services that the club participates in and contributes to. GHWC donates clothing and school supplies to the Stuff Bus, provides scholarships to local high school seniors, and helps collect food for the Flagler County Family Life Center. The group has also knitted afghans for the New Beginnings organization, baby hats for newborns at Flagler Hospital, and made pillows for those recovering from open heart surgery.

Begun in 2005, Grand Haven Women's Club is a member of the General and Florida Federation of Women's Clubs. The group has donated thousands of dollars to local charities and even some international ones. Flagler Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Flagler Habitat for Humanity, Flagler Humane Society, Flagler food banks, Flagler Free Clinic and Stuart F Meyer Hospice House are just some of the organizations that have received monies from the club in the past.

The membership has grown substantially over the years and now boasts over 183 members. Needless to say, the dining rooms at Grand Haven Golf Club are always full of interested ladies all willing to give of their time and service to make the club a success!

This year's programs are bound to be good ones. Jean MacAllister, Flagler Volunteer Services spoke at the first meeting, and others such as Georgia Turner, Vice President of Tourism Development for Flagler County, and Dr. William Abare, President of Flagler College are on the docket for later meetings. Highlights of the year are always those special meetings such as the Annual Holiday Luncheon in December, The Day of Games in January and the Fancy Hat and Tea Cup Social for the final meeting of the year in May. Other fundraisers are held throughout the year at fun places within the county to add to the clubs' local contributions.

Grand Haven Women's Club monthly meetings are held at the Grand Haven Golf Club on the third Monday of every month, at 11AM unless otherwise stated in the group's monthly newsletter. Memberships are available by calling Sandra Hollenbeck @ 386-986-3118 or Kathy Chiddister @ 386-446-5428.



Deborah Williams (Education Association) and Sandra Mankowich

Flagler County Art League

Why Not Give a Gift of Local Art This Holiday Season? Or the Gift of a Class or Workshop?

As a member of the Flagler County Art League, I am amazed at all the talent and variety of skills evident among our members. I've become an avid collector myself of many of these artists' work, and I give unique pieces as gifts to friends and family.

This holiday season offers a terrific cost-effective opportunity to pick up some original art, as the league has decided to hold its annual "Simply Small" (minis) show this month, precisely to allow people time to pick up unique gifts with very modest price tags--precisely because the works are all small (and thus not only attractively priced but easy to find a spot for in anyone's home). As we promote the arts in our local schools, too, a student art show will be hung during our minis event, on a separate wall, as will the beautiful cat art done in a recent workshop conducted by nationally known colored pencil artist Gemma Gylling.



Not only will you find small paintings, colored pencil pieces, drawings, photography and mixed media, among other mediums, this year you will also find more artisan jewelry in

our gift shop, including polymer clay pieces (Loretta Consola taking a class), thanks to the enthusiastic response to our new classes in this medium, taught by Grand Haven artist, Lynn Spancake and fellow artisan Terry Ward.

For that matter, a gift of a class would be a wonderful thing to give to a local friend or neighbor. Not only will a class gift certificate provide recipients a chance to explore talents they perhaps have always wanted to—or find talents they did not know they had—classes also offer a tremendous opportunity for camaraderie.

Our "Wine, Women and Whatever!" is a case in point. Artists gather on Wednesday afternoons (for free!) to work on anything they like, while chatting, sharing wine and snacks, and helping (if desired) to critique one another's work. You can check our class and workshop classes and schedule classes on our website:

www.flaglercountyartleague.com

In addition, don't forget about our "Second Saturday" show openings. This 2013/2014 season, we have a whole variety of new themes to tickle your fancy: "The Dance of Life," for example, opens Saturday, December 14, 6 to 9 p.m. We look forward to artists interpreting this theme in any way that inspires them. Our second Annual Juried Photography Show debuts in January, followed in February by "Art Inspiring Poetry," another of our combination poetry and art events. (If you can't make an opening, visit the gallery during the month the show is up. We are open noon to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.)



For that matter, with the aim of promoting all the arts in Palm Coast, FCAL is now hosting an Open Mic by the Tomoka Poets division of the Florida State Poets Association, on the first Thursday of every month, 7 to 9 p.m. Come to listen, read your own poetry or read the work of your favorite poet! (Contact me for more information: ssalkin@cfl.rr.com)

Another group we are hosting is the Photography Club of Flagler County which meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month. (Contact Grand Haven's Bob Carlsen—rcarlsen@cfl.rr.com, for information.)

And that brings up another point. While it is more cost-effective to become an FCAL member (annual individual membership dues are only \$40 a year and \$50 for a family), you can participate in any show you want or take any classes or workshops you want at non-member prices. I know some of you in the community love photography, for example. We have some terrific classes and workshops coming up soon with renowned international photographer Wolfgang Obst. Also, why not try entering one of our shows whose theme has brought out the shutterbug or painter in you? And for sure, if you are a poet, PLEASE enter our poetry competitions. They are so much fun!

You are also welcome to attend our monthly general meetings free of charge, whether a member or not. They are held the third Thursday of the month, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (The first half hour is for coffee, cake and schmoozing.) This November 21, our featured speaker is Alan Sauvelpahkick, a Native-American artist, who will demonstrate his pen and ink techniques. See examples of his work, shaped by his experiences being raised on an Indian Reservation.

Submitted by Stephanie Salkin

Grand Haven Critters: Snakes Alive! *by Anne Sciuto*

"Snakes are of major importance as pest controllers because of their extensive predation"

While there are over 50 different species of snakes in Florida only 6 are venomous. As a general rule, snakes are just as frightened of us we are of them and usually move as quickly as possible in the other direction. Snakes are *not* aggressive and do not hunt or chase people, so the rule is to leave them alone and watch your step. Though not the most endearing of our local fauna they are, nevertheless, permanent residents of our area. Many of us fear these strange slithery creatures and that includes even the one most often encountered in our yards or walkways. Of the sub-order of Serpentes "Coluber Constrictor Priapus"; we know as Southern Black Racer.



In spite of its Latin name, a Racer does not constrict its prey; it kills by crushing prey to the ground and gets the name from its ability to move faster than most snakes. It is also non-venomous and harmless. It should be a welcome visitor to our yards if we recognize its value in keeping the rodent population under control and are not petrified on seeing it. The Black Racer diet consists of small snakes, rats, mice, frogs, and lizards. Because other snakes avoid it, that alone should give us some comfort and behooves us to learn to identify this harmless creature and not panic if it slithers into view or pokes its head out of a manicured shrub.

It is easily recognized by its speed. It is roughly 2 to 4 feet in length, it's head is almost the same width as its body, which is about 2 inches in diameter. It has a white chin, smooth scale, very big round eyes and a grayish or black belly. This snake is diurnal, feeding and active in the daytime. It will zigzag away when encountered. But if cornered it will bite just like any animal although most non-venomous snakes cannot bite through clothing. Baby racers are narrow skinny little things, usually tan or gray with reddish-brown blotches running down the middle of the back which fade as it grows to 12 inches. These babies are often mistaken for some other nasty little sliders.

Unlike a racer, a Water Moccasin has a heavy stout body with a large triangular head, typical of a snake with venom pouches in its cheek. Color is dark gray with a faint pattern. Its neck is skinny and the pupils of the eyes are elliptical (as in cats) which improves night vision. It is nocturnal hunting mainly at night, although may be seen in the daytime basking in the sun. It may not always back away if cornered and will display its white "cotton mouth".



Carl Sagan, in *The Dragons of Eden*, speculated that human fear of snakes may be an effect of the conditions under which mammals evolved. In a world dominated by animals, "to avoid being bitten or eaten was a prerequisite." So perhaps we inherited this fear from our ancient ancestors and are programmed to fear snakes and wild animals. Although snakes have been vilified in folklore and legends as evil, they have been worshiped in ancient Mesopotamia, in Egypt, Rome, Greece, India, Africa, Cambodia, the Nordic countries and the Americas.

Interesting facts:

1. A snake has no ears but it can sense vibrations through its skull and jawbones.
2. The tongue is its strongest sense. When a snake's tongue touches something, it collects scents and organisms and it then touches a sensory organ on the roof of its mouth to identify it.
3. It is through a small notch in its closed lips that a snake sticks out its tongue.
4. The jaws of a snake are not hinged at the back so it can swallow large prey. (Visualize a person swallowing a large watermelon).
6. A snake has inward facing small teeth for holding prey but only venomous snakes have fangs.
7. A snake has no eyelids, so it can't close its eyes. It can only see things up close.
8. Many animals, including humans, shed their skin; a snake slides off, often in one piece. Before shedding, a snake's lymphatic system secretes a lubricant (WD40 ?) between the old skin and the new, making it easier to shed.
9. Snakes are used in universal symbols of medicine and healing.
10. And the question most often asked by children. Yes, a snake poops and urinates through a cloaca, a vent between its body and tail, wherever that is! But who's willing to check ?



News from the Nest: Our Wild Oaks Eagles by Gretchen Butler

Each year as September approaches, anticipation builds.....the resident eagles at Wild Oaks return to their nest. Who will return first? When will they return? WILL they return?

Over the past five years closely monitoring "Mom and Dad Wild Oaks", I never take their return for granted. Like all wildlife they are faced with constant threats. They work hard for a living. And their survival is mixed with much adversity.

Although our resident eagles leave their nesting territory for "somewhere" over the three summer months, I often wonder "how do they know their way back?" These raptors are independent and exemplify strength. They command the sky. And they are equipped with a built-in GPS somehow finding their way back to their nest.....Amazing!

As September approached my visits to the nest area were frequent as I don't want to miss their return. It was quite dark on August 28th. Was that an eagle in the nest tree? YES!!! Next question.....is it one of "our" eagles? It isn't uncommon for other eagles (intruders) to stop by this "pillar in the sky" as it towers over the surrounding trees and is no doubt valuable "real estate" to any interested raptor. Many of the visitors are likely offspring from this nest and want to call it "home". I had to confirm.....

I anxiously returned to the nest the next morning before dawn as I knew the eagle would likely remain there for the night. YES!!! the eagle was there. And YES!!! the eagle was our male eagle! As I walked the path towards the play area gazing at the nest tree, what did I see? YES!!! the female was there too! The night before she was no doubt there, but it was visually too dark to see her. They don't often return together, so I was full of smiles and giving thanks. They soon left and headed in the direction of one of their favorite perching spots about two miles away.... and YES they were there perched together in their familiar place gazing into the horizon high above everyone and everything.



Since their return they have resumed their normal behaviors.....courtship, mating and constantly hauling sticks (lumber) to their nest because they just don't think it's big enough! The nest is estimated to be approximately 7' deep and 6'x8' in size weighing likely a ton. Actually part of their



Photos by Tatine Rehm

"bonding" includes "nestorations" so (anticipating egg-laying) they are also seen carrying Spanish moss to the nest which provides insulation to the nest bowl as well as a cushy bed for their hatchlings.

As usual the female is the boss (did I say "bossy"?) and is never satisfied where the male places the sticks.....which often lead to some intense beaking. Then the male basically gives up (or gives in?) and decides to perch while she does the remodeling. Sound at all familiar??

Based on their former nesting seasons I "eggspect" mom will be on eggs incubating the first part of November. The signs will be posted in the park and the nesting area roped off November 1 in protection and respect to the nesting eagles. Last year Day #1 was November 9. Stay tuned as it's all in their time.....as they are on "Eagle Time"!

Submitted by:

Gretchen Butler (Grand Haven Resident)
Audubon EagleWatch Nest Monitor/Volunteer
American Eagle Foundation Nest Cam Moderator/
Volunteer

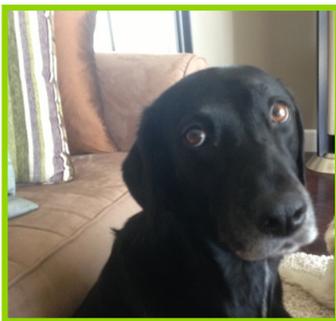
NOTE: Should you notice any unusual activity by the eagles (i.e. fallen eaglet) or disturbances in the nest area, please contact 386-569-1860

Flagler Humane Society



Here at the Flagler Humane Society, we reflect on gratitude every day. We can't help it when thousands of animals come through our doors each year, in desperate need of the food, shelter, and love they were denied on the streets or in abusive homes. There's nothing like the looks in their eyes when they're warm and fed, the kisses they give when they're snuggling with our volunteers, or the excitement when they head to their forever homes.

We've had a great year at the shelter, offering more services and saving more lives than ever before. Pets that might have seemed impossible to save before now have hope. Pets like Eunice, who came to the shelter with so many health problems we thought she was unadoptable until a big-hearted family took her home.



Or Dixie, who languished in the shelter for months until one of our dedicated volunteers spent weekend after weekend searching for her perfect family.

We wouldn't get to see these amazing stories unfold without the support of

our community, especially our Humane Heroes. Members of the Humane Heroes program are the cornerstone of sustaining the shelter and making sure we can keep moving forward with our important work. This Thanksgiving, please consider giving back to your community by becoming a Humane Hero.

Your help will make a difference for the animals all year long. Check out our website for all news on the Shelter, upcoming events and pictures of available animals. www.flaglerhumanesociety.com



Grand Haven 2014 Builder Event

The master planned community of Grand Haven features some of the top home builders in Flagler County and Palm Coast. They offer exceptional designs, excellent craftsmanship and the latest new home innovations and technologies. Their commitment to offering cutting-edge new homes is a big reason why Grand Haven continues to be the top selling gated master planned community in Palm Coast. Grand Haven Realty is hosting a 2014 Preview to showcase the latest designs.

On Thursday, November 21st from 5:30-7:30 pm the Grand Haven Realty Team along with their participating builders at Grand Haven will present the **2014 Design Preview** (see ad on page 13). This exclusive event will feature the next generation of custom home designs for Palm Coast. It's a terrific opportunity to be among the first to see the latest in custom home designs and more. Participants will preview detailed layouts, artistic renderings, new elevations, innovative features and the latest new home technologies. Each builder will make a presentation and be available to answer questions. Participants will also be the first to learn about special incentive offers on building a new home at Grand Haven.

The event will be held in the Grand Haven Room at the Village Center. Refreshments will be provided and all guests attending are eligible to win a variety of door prizes.

The 2014 Design Preview is free and open to the public but space is limited. Please call Grand Haven Realty at (386) 447-0800 or toll free (800) 957-0213 to RSVP by November 18th.



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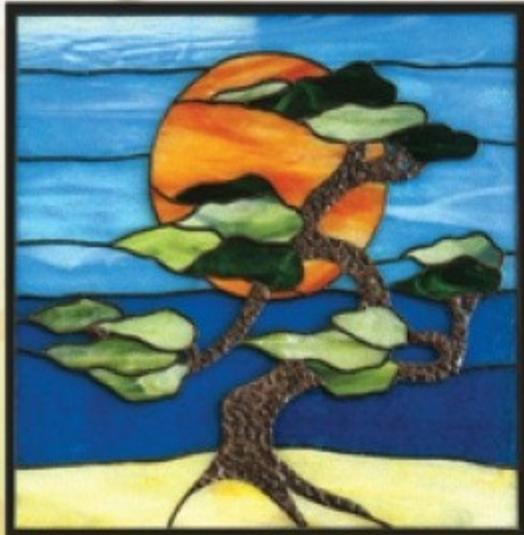
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