The Oak Tree

President's Message

Within the next two months, the property owners of our community will be asked to choose from the candidates seeking to serve as directors on the board of the Master Association. In conjunction with this event, as in the past, I will receive multiple requests from voters asking my opinion of the candidates. I am always reluctant to endorse any candidate, but instead, will express my beliefs regarding the qualities that make for a productive board member.

Before going any further, it is of primary importance that everyone understand that the Board does not have unlimited authority to make decisions but instead is required to adhere to our Master Declaration as well as each Village Declaration. In addition, the Board must also conform to State Statute 720 as well as any applicable federal laws, state laws and local regulations. After all is said and done, the most significant function of the Board is to ensure that our community is in compliance with the existing governing documents and laws.

As is most often the case, you will have the opportunity to select from either incumbent Board members seeking re-election or new candidates seeking a GHMA Board position for the first time. Incumbents will generally share with you their accomplishments as Board members while new candidates will emphasize their vision for changes in the Board's performance.

Well, that brings us to my original point regarding the qualities of a member of the Board. Of primary importance, being on the Board requires a time commitment far exceeding the monthly Board meetings. The last time that I surveyed the Board regarding their time spent on "job" related functions, I was not surprised to find that on average, each spent approximately 30 hours a month on designated responsibilities in addition to unscheduled communication with other Board members and members of the Association. In addition to the time commitment, some other specific qualities and characteristics of a productive Board member include, but are not limited to the following:

- A desire to serve all of the 27 Villages that comprise our entire community, not any specific Village or any special interest group.
- A willingness to evaluate opposing points of view and make logical decisions based on the information and in accordance with our governing documents and existing law.

....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, November 18
2 PM, Friday, December 16
2 PM, Friday, January 20
2 PM, Friday, February 17

WHERE: Creekside Amenities Center
2 North Village Parkway

GHMA Board Members

President Rob Carlton 447-5536 rjcarlton5@aol.com

Vice Pres. Vic Natiello 986-2274 vicnatiello@aol.com

Treasurer Ed O'Brien 283-4184 Ed.obrien43@cfl.rr.com

Director Mike Frichol 585-3266 frichol@hotmail.com

Director Denise Gallo 843-9177 gallodenise@yahoo.com

The Oak Tree

EDITOR	Nancy Carlton	ncarlton096@gmail.com
PRODUCTION Troy Railsback		trailsback@ssmgroupinc.com
CONTRIBUTORS	Gretchen Butler	Leigh Jackson
	Nancy Carlton	David Paukovich
	Rob Carlton	Kathy Reichard-Ellavsky
	Nancy Crouch	Brad Scott
	Kevin Foley	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 with your suggestions

GHMA Election Timeline

The Grand Haven Master Association (GHMA) Board of Directors Annual Meeting and Elections Timeline is as follows:

October 5, 2022– Mailing of 1st Notice of Annual Meeting and Election with request for candidates.

November 1, 2022— Deadline for return of completed Candidate Information Forms, indicating an Owner's interest in running for the GHMA Board.

November 15, 2022—Posting of Candidate Information Forms on GHMA website.

December 7, 2022– Candidate Forum, if warranted.

December 12, 2022– Mailing of 2nd Notice of Annual Meeting and Election Materials and/or Information.

January 5, 2023—5 PM—Deadline for return or delivery of completed ballots and meeting date for the GHMA Annual Meeting and Election.

In This Issue

President's Message	1, 3
GHMA Board Members, Meeting Schedule	2
Election Timeline	2
Palm Coast Historical Society	3
Critter Corner	4
No Rest for the Wicket	5
CDD Corner	6
Haven Family Fund	7
Eagles Nest	8
Volunteer Opportunity	9
MADC Corner	10
Director's Corner	11
Southern States	12
Grand Haven Woman's Club	13
Advent Health Volunteers Needed	14
Palm Coast Arts Foundation	15

President's Message...continued

- Although it is always easier to comply with requests from members of the Association than deny a request, it is often not in best interests of the majority of our property owners to do so. The decisions of Board members should never be driven by the need for acceptance or popularity.
- Being a productive Board member entails a long learning curve and a never ending involvement with research and education. It requires an on-going commitment to the residents of our community.
- The future wellbeing of Grand Haven is dependent upon the enforcement of our governing documents in a fair and equitable manner. Every Board member has the fiduciary responsibility to ensure that occurs and as a result, the future value of your property is protected.

Since prior elections have shown that on average, less than 30% of the 1901 property owners in Grand Haven participate in the annual GHMA elections, your vote is extremely important. Before you cast your ballot, spend the time to determine the manner in which the incumbent board members have served our community and evaluate the vision that prospective board members have for the future of both the Board and Grand Haven. Examine the qualities, experience and commitment of each candidate. Finally, evaluate their abilities and dedication in regard to serving on a Board that represents 1900 property owners and approximately 4700 residents.

Your ballot choices will have an impact not only over the course of the next two years but also the future status of Grand Haven as one of the most prestigious communities in Flagler County.

Submitted by: Rob Carlton, President, GHMA

Palm Coast Historical Society

Original Yacht Club opened December 1972

By December 1972, little more than two years after International Telephone and Telegraph began creating Palm Coast, the developers opened the original Palm Coast Yacht Club along the main canal leading to the Intracoastal Waterway. Completed at a cost of \$600,000 the facility included a swimming pool, tennis courts, and marina adjacent to a clubhouse that would become the social, civic, and religious hub of the new community.

In the first year nearly 200 residents occupied their homes in the neighborhood adjacent to the original golf course, now called Palm Harbor. Early residents formally orga-



nized the Palm Coast Civic Association in July 1972 to promote ideas and programs to the developer to further the goal of making Palm Coast the "ideal place to live."

Black and white archive photos of the exterior of the building suggest a Polynesian-style roofline popular during that period. Interior photos of the lounge show groupings of rattan fan-back chairs and low-slung sofas. There was also a game area with pool tables placed against a backdrop of natural coquina rock walls and wood ceilings.

The original structure no longer exists. ITT transformed the club into the Sheraton Harborside Inn in 1987. By 2006 the property was demolished to make way for what was to become the Palm Coast Resort. Due to the economic downturn it was not completed as proposed.

Visit the Palm Coast Historical Society and Museum in Holland Park to view the outdoor mural which captures bygone images of Palm Coast's early days. The museum's exhibits include photos and artifacts from another era. For more information visit

www.palmcoasthistory.com and follow us on Facebook.

Submitted by: Kathy M. Reichard-Ellavsky, PCHS





Critter Corner

Snakes Alive!

Florida is home to more cottonmouths (aka water moccasins) than any other state in the Union. After rainstorms, such as Ian, a snake's den may fill with water, forcing the snake to seek other shelter. We may then see more of them outdoors particularly near our wetlands and around palmetto clumps. While they spend time in water, they are equally comfortable sunning themselves on dry land.

Cottonmouths are venomous but easily identifiable by their thick dark brown/black bodies, triangular heads and narrow necks. Their eyes are elliptical, like a cat. Juvenile cottonmouths have more distinctive bands across their bodies and are a lighter brown.

When threatened, these snakes will gape showing the white inside of their mouths. This is to scare off a predator. According to University of FL Herpetology Dept., "Cottonmouths are not aggressive and avoid direct contact with people and pets." Most of us feel the same way about them. People often get bitten when they try to kill them.

If a lady cottonmouth is unable to find a lover, she may create her own offspring by the process of (gulp) "Faculative Partenogenesis" which involves splitting the chromosomes and recombining them differently, which produces female clones.

Cottonmouths are also Ovoviviparous, giving birth to live babies. The female keeps her eggs safely inside her reproductive tract while the babies develop. When they hatch, they are fully developed tiny snakes that slither out through her cloaca and snake away to fend for themselves.

Similar to hibernation, cottonmouths "brumate" in winter, usually when it's below 60F. They lower their activity, do not eat and stay still. They hide in hollow trees, under logs and anywhere they feel safe. Often snakes will brumate together, with less energy, they are not interested in fighting over females; they save that for the spring!

Submitted by: Anne Scuito

No Rest for the Wicket

Ever wonder what the following nine aliments all relate to: Rotator Cuff, Wrist and Achilles Tendonitis, Ankle Sprains, Back Stress Fractures, Jumper's Knee, Tennis Elbow, Joint Dysfunctions, and Heel Bruising? These are the top nine injuries associated with individuals aged 60 and older playing either tennis or pickleball as reported in articles from *Go to Ortho* and *The Pickleball Doctor*.

Did you also know there is another outdoor activity that's a surprising way to exercise both body and mind as reported by the article *Physio on the River*? Croquet.

Croquet, a game that began in the early 1400's is currently played in both Australia and England and most recently in the United States as a rehabilitation activity for individuals who have had joint replacements, strokes, and most importantly keeping seniors active and outdoors.

There are many different versions of the game, two

versions which are actively played here at Grand Haven are American 6 -Wicket and Golf Croquet. Each has been described as "games involv-



ing skill in hitting a ball and tactics to outwit the opposition. It can be a no-holds-barred battle on the grass, as each team attempts to win more hoops than their opponent, but in a very civilized way (NSW Croquet)".

So, if you're looking for a low impact exercise and a non-strenuous workout, think about joining your fellow residents on the croquet courts. You can play at any age, generally from 16 to 90+, it's intellectually challenging, mentally stimulating, encourages a positive attitude and surprisingly you can get in a two mile walk around the courts without even realizing it.

For more information about playing croquet, either contact Marsha Cargill, Membership Director GH Croquet Club at owdmac@gmail.com, join one of our introductory classes or check out our website www.ghcroquetclub.com.

We would love to see you on the courts,

Submitted by: David Paukovich





Thinking about buying or selling? Please give me a call, I would love to help! Happy Holidays!

JENNIFER AMES
386.569.3512
jenames@erapalmcoast.com





GHWC BOOK SALE!!



The Grand Haven Woman's Club will hold their annual book sale on March 3rd & 4th in the Grand Haven room. So start saving all your books now (must be in good condition and no cookbooks or self-help books) to donate them later for a great cause!

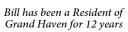
Collection dates and locations will be sent out at a later date.

Questions, call Jennifer Ames 386.569.3512

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CDD Corner

Oak Tree Leaves and Grass Clippings

Our Oak tree canopy is the beautiful signature of Grand Haven but the spring and fall leaf drops are not!

We considered periodic vacuuming, but it's too expensive so we encourage all to follow a couple of suggested guidelines that will help our drains function well, our ponds stay free of excess leaves and ultimately, keep our costs down:

- Please DO NOT blow or rake leaves or grass clippings into the gutters, streets or drains and
- Please keep the gutters clear and use your tree leaves and grass clippings as yard mulch or have your landscape company take care of them.

Following these guidelines will allow the gutters to move water to the drains that carry the water into the ponds as is intended.

Leaves and grass clippings in the gutters and streets eventually find their way to the drains and ponds causing costly problems for the CDD and residents. A build-up of leaves on the pond bottoms can cause a severe drop in oxygen that can result in "fish kills" and serious algae blooms. When those things happen, we often have to install aerators to pull oxygen back down to the bottom where fish can swim safely and actually do the jobs they were put there to do.

Among the several species of fish in our ponds, some are bottom feeders that eat weeds and other growth that would otherwise choke the water. Others, such as cracker fish, feed on midge fly larvae that cause their own problems if left to mature.

Anyway, the cost to install aerators is high with the last ones costing \$20,000+ in just one pond. We have 42 ponds! Keep in mind, our ponds are over 20 years old and have been absorbing the leaves all along, so we are having to install aerators with increasing frequency. Thankfully, none of our ponds have had to be dredged and our pond maintenance contractor is not recommending it. It would be an exorbitant expense so let's all be good neighbors and do our best to help protect our beautiful environment.

Submitted by: Kevin Foley, CDD Board of Supervisors





Our Scorecard

Haven Family Fund has been in continuous operation since early 2017, with a short interruption during the COVID epidemic. Over that period, HFF volunteers have provided over 1,000 roundtrip rides and in 2022 we are averaging more than 7 per week. Our Visitation teams have invested well over 2,000 hours in support of homebound neighbors, allowing many spouse caregivers a little break to get other things done.

Many Grand Haven residents have attended Jim Griswold's Estate Organization classes, the Police/Fire programs, Deirdre Dolgen's computer offerings and other training opportunities. The Arts & Crafts Fairs, the Golf Tourneys, and our Karaoke Event have added fun ways to meet neighbors. And we highly appreciate our tremendous donors, who provided \$16,500 to help neighbors and staff with specific needs since January 2020.

A quick reminder regarding Transportation. After multiple years of tremendous service, Terri Langan has stepped down from her role as Transportation Coordinator. Terri – THANK YOU just doesn't seem enough; you really made a difference for your volunteers and riders!!! Transportation is now being coordinated by Jackie and Jim Morelewicz. If you find you can't drive yourself to a doctor's appointment, physical therapy, the supermarket, or other events, please call (386) 597-7585.

OK, here come the quotes. But this quarter, I'm just going to whet your appetite:

JFK: Ask not ...

MLK, Jr: I have a dream ...

FDR: The test of our progress ...

Paul: Do not neglect to do good and to share what

you have ... (Hebrews 13:16)

Zinn: Small acts ...

Doing good, helping when we can; these little things are what it takes to transform a community/a nation/ a world into a place we really want to be, a place that we can enjoy. Big dreams can be fulfilled by lots of little actions.

If you'd like to join Haven Family Fund as a volunteer, please reach out to me at

havenfamilyfund@gmail.com.

Submitted by: Brad Scott, HFF Ops

Maggie says Breeze on into Sabal Palms...



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Eagles Nest

This nesting season is off to a quick and productive start. Samson returned on August 9. Gabby returned on September 12. This will be their 4th breeding season, and Gabby has returned 3 out of 4 seasons on September 12! Actually, Samson returned on August 9 last season as well. Now that's consistency!



They quickly ramped into "nestoration mode" building their bond by delivering sticks, Spanish moss and some pine bough to their nest (as well as several matings observed). Samson does most of the deliveries. Gabby supervises placement and usually repositions every stick Samson places!

Hurricane Ian provided ample sticks for them. Our part of Flagler County was blessed with minimal flooding but mostly clean up. Our eagles survived as most did....even in Captiva/Sanibel Islands. They are quite resilient, and instinctively know where to go for storm protection. Although, many Florida nests were destroyed by Ian, the eagles quickly re-built. They can construct a usable nest within 1-2 weeks!

The nest in Grand Haven has withstood a few hurricanes including Ian. Hurricane Matthew in 2016 caused the most destruction leaving their habitat like a war zone surrounded with "caution" tape. However, the nest and nest tree have always survived.....and most importantly the eagles did too!

If history repeats and all goes well, Samson and Gabby should have eggs in early December and chicks in January.....stay tuned!

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



May you and yours have a healthy, prosperous & joyous New Year

Your GHMA Board of Directors

Rob Carlton Denise Gallo Mike Frichol

Vic Natiello Ed O'Brien

Volunteer Opportunity

If you would like to become more involved in Grand Haven, here is a great opportunity for you to contribute to you community.

Volunteer Position: Fine Committee Member

Requirements: Must be a Grand Haven Property Owner

Job Description: Responsible for reviewing correspondence, hearing appeals to violations and approving or rejecting

fine when violations have not been corrected. Training will be provided. *Time Commitment*: One hour on the third Tuesday of every month

Meeting Location: Creekside Amenity Center

The Board requests that each interested volunteer submit a Candidate Information Sheet (provided upon request/interest), indicating their interest in this volunteer position and why they would be a good candidate as a Fine Committee member.

Please respond with your interest no later than Tuesday, December 13, 2022, to the Grand Haven Master Association using one of the following"

Email to: Troy@SSMGFL.com

Mail to: GMHA

P.O. Box 354785 Palm Coast, FL 32135

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MADC Corner

THE WOW EFFECT

On July 22,2022, the Grand Haven Board of Directors discussed, adopted, and published a resolution regarding the language of the roof replacement standard. The resolution is published at https://grandhavenmhoa.com/Villages/Villages.htm.

The new standard states the following: Two adjacent properties cannot have roofing of the same material, (tile, shingle, or metal) color and style. This also applies if the roof is multicolored color pattern. Roofs across the street are NOT part of this comparison. This decision made by the board was twofold: to protect the property value of individual homes and to preserve the unique style of a particular neighborhood. Sounds simple, but really a complex and costly issue when you are faced with a roof replacement. Currently insurance companies are cancelling policies based on the age of your roof regardless of the condition of the roof.

Now down to the nitty gritty. Obtain three written bids and choose a reputable roofing contractor. We all know horror stories of roofing scams. In most cases the resident chooses to remain with the same color, style, and layout as the previous roof. However, the homeowner may wish to choose a newer contemporary color. Once the selection process is complete, the contractor determines the square footage and presents you with a proposal. No problem.

However, if the homeowner decides to make a change, many decisions must be faced. Styles change over time and value (lightness or darkness) of the color matters as well. Dark roofs absorb more UV rays than lighter colors and tend to be damaged more quickly in Central Florida. A lighter orange, green, or brown tone will be more reflective than dark thus keeping AC bills lower.

The roofing industry has expanded color selections, and independent research has provided understanding of how a home's roof affects the home's perceived value in the minds of home buyers and realtors. The research concludes that a completely integrated exterior roof, house color and landscaping increases the value of the home. Your well-considered choice of roof color and how well it integrates with the rest of your home's exterior can achieve the **WOW** effect by highlighting the beauty of your home.

Submitted by: Leigh Jackson, Chair, MADC

Director's Corner

In order to familiarize the residents of our community with the individual members of the Master Association's Board of Directors, beginning with this issue, the "Director's Corner" will be added to the articles published in the Oak Tree. In future editions one of the other Directors will detail their role and responsibilities as a member of the Board.

I am pleased to be able to initiate the "Director's Corner" in this edition of the Oak Tree. During my very first year as a new Board member, I became aware of the fact that the Master Association had bad debt resulting from unpaid assessments, fines and fees, involving approximately 120 properties, in the amount of approximately \$380,000. At the next annual meeting, I was elected president of the Board and shortly thereafter, I created and implemented the Problematic Property Committee (PPC). As the Board Liaison and a member of the PPC, I worked to ensure that a prioritized list of all bad debt was created and a multifaceted collection process was established.

As the direct result of the combined efforts of the Board, Southern States Management Group and our collection attorneys, that \$380,000 in bad debt has been reduced to less than \$2,000. Since it was created, the PPC, under direction of the Board, has collected over \$521,000 in bad debt. Yes, you read that correctly, in excess of a half a million dollars that has been recovered by the Master Association and used for the benefit all of the members of the Association. Those funds have been used to supplement and maintain assessments at pre-existing levels for a number of years and to facilitate the daily operations of the Master Association. Furthermore, it has provided a heightened level of financial stability for the Association and all of its members.

I speak of this accomplishment and my role as the PPC liaison with pride and am pleased to have had the opportunity to share this information with you.

Submitted by: Rob Carlton, President

Grand Haven Master Association





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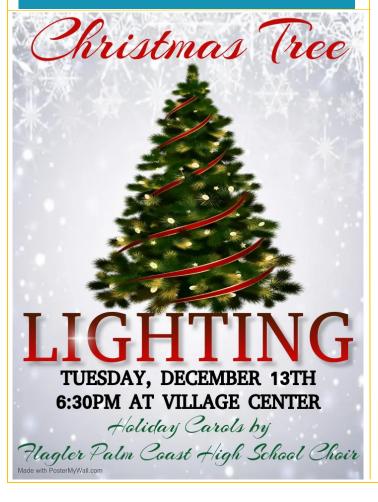
LINT SHARK

THE DRYER VENT CLEANERS

A CLEAN, VENTILATED DRYER VENT PREVENTS FIRES AND USES LESS ENERGY.



WE GET THE LINT OUT!





Keep a look out for your 2023 Annual Assessment coupon book. These will be mailed in November and should be received by December 1st. Payment is due January 1, 2023. 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 2023 Annual Assessment is \$150.

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 of these Villages's respective 2023 monthly assessment is due the first of each month starting January 1, 2023.

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

Web access to your Grand Haven Master Association, Inc. assessment account is available. With this online access you are able to:

- ◆ Review your account balance
- ♦ Get information about payment amounts
- ◆ Update contact information
- ◆ Submit Work Order Requests (PLM, Crossings, River Club)
- ◆ Review ADC information/status
- ◆ Review/submit Compliance information/status
- ◆ Review general GHMA information

To login to your account please visit

www.GrandHavenMHOA.com and click the "Resident Login" link in the top left of the page. Correspondence was previously sent providing your Account Number and Password. If you misplaced and/or do not have your Account Number and/or Password, please contact SSMG (386-446-6333) for access.

Submitted by: Troy Railsback, Community Manager

Grand Haven Woman's Club

The Grand Haven Woman's Club has kicked off its 2022-23 Club year with a great opening meeting on September 19 and it was so good to see many familiar faces along with some new members. GHWC also held its first fundraiser on Saturday, October 8, its 6th Annual Nine & Dine, chaired by Beth Havens & Paula Geppner. Thanks to all our members and friends who made this event successful, raising over \$5,000.

As in previous years, GHWC continues to collect for the food pantries, the STUFF Bus, the Giving Store and the Humane Society. These collections occur on the third Monday of each month in the corner of the Golf Club parking lot. Just look for the GHWC sign. Look for the eblast from the Amenity Center, which details more information.

In the next few months, we have three events scheduled: Day of Games on January 16, Mallet Madness on February 25 & 26, and the Annual Book Sale on March 3 & 4. You can find more information on each of these events and how to participate in this issue.

As always, we wish to thank those companies who are sponsoring us this year.

Annual Partners





Event Sponsors













Grand Haven Woman's Club DAY OF GAMES 2023

Monday, January 16, 2023 Grand Haven Golf Clubhouse 10 AM to 2 PM



\$35 per person includes lunch

Ready, Set, Go! Please join the women of Grand Haven for a day of Fun,

Food and Festivities

Gather your group of fellow game players and enjoy Mah Jongg, Bridge, Canasta, Dominoes and more.

For more info, contact Carol Walker at walkercarol1410@gmail.com For reservations, contact Lucy Crowley at jerlu37@gmail.com

Visit GHwomansclub.org/events for details and lunch choices



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~~Mallet Madness~~ Croquet for a Cause

February 25 & 26 at Grand Haven Creekside Court

Open to All—48 Player Limit
All Residents Welcome
Mallets Available ~~ Raffle & Prizes

\$100 Per Player includes:

2 days of Golf Croquet, box lunch both days, event t-shirt, wrist band, Meet & Greet with Hors d'oeuvre, 1st & 2nd Place Awards

\$35 Per Non-Player includes:Meet & Greet, box lunch both days and event
wrist band

For Player/Non Player & Sponsorship Information & Registration Form Contact Patti Paukovich @ GHWCMalletMadness@gmail.com

All proceeds benefit GHWC supported charitable organizations



AdventHealth Palm Coast is looking for volunteers!

Our local hospital is home to almost 100 volunteers. These volunteers make a huge difference in patient care and help our hospital run smoothly. We currently have many positions open, ready to be filled by a loving, caring person looking for fulfillment in their life. Being a volunteer at the hospital is something special.

Our greatest need right now is for greeters to sit at our front entrance desk to help visitors find where they are trying to go – this position doesn't require any standing and minimal walking. Our golf cart department is currently looking for drivers to pick up and drop off patients from the parking lot to the building. The Gift Shop is need of help, operating the register and helping customers with purchases. The Cancer Center volunteers assist patients with wigs and clerical work. There are clerical positions available in multiple departments such as Infection Prevention, Patient Experience, Pastoral Care, and others. Nursing floors, Emergency Room and Same Day Surgery tasks are restocking items, helping staff as needed and preparing patient packets. Our Café volunteers serve food, clean and prep meals for staff/ patients.

The minimum requirement for a volunteer is one four-hour shift per week. The average shift is 8a-12p or 12p-4pm. There is flexibility in this schedule and the day worked is dependent on the volunteer's availability and department needs. Volunteers can work more than one shift a week and can volunteer in multiple departments.

Please contact **Lisa Bordis**, 386-586-4234 or <u>lisa.bordis@adventhealth.com</u>. You can also pick up a paper application in the hospital Gift Shop M-F 8 AM-4PM. A background check is required to volunteer.





The long awaited "SEE" turtle has arrived! As we wind down the Turtle Trail for 2022, we are honored to have

brought blind artist John Bramblitt to help us dedicate and introduce the "SEE" turtle to our public art Trail on October 15 at Tomoka Eye in Town Center.

John was gracious to attend and conduct workshops to the Conklin Davis Center for the Visually Im-



paired students following the unveiling. Tomoka Eye and Associates, celebrating their 50th anniversary serving the visually impaired community, was excited to have commissioned this highly awarded artist from Denton, TX.

John Bramblitt learned to paint after he lost his eyesight



by using art techniques that have been around for centuries combined with white cane techniques that visually impaired people use for orientation and mobility. "I figured if I can get across a city basically

using a stick, then surely you can navigate around a canvas," he said. "It's much smaller, and you're never going to break your foot, you're never going to get hit by a car. So that's where I started. It's lines that I can touch and feel, and then I change the way that the colors feel."

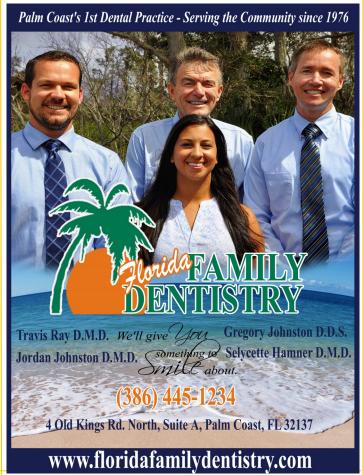
He mixes his paint colors with mediums, so he can make

white feel like toothpaste or black feel runny like oil or make a color hard, so he can carve it with a knife.

"It just changes the texture and viscosity of every



color, so that through touch you can understand the color and then you can draw the lines," he said. "If you're a sighted person, you're going to look at the lines and see where they are. If you're visually impaired, you're going



to use your sense of touch to know where you are and where you've been, like when you're eating, when you're cooking and when you're painting."

Bramblitt said the same region of the brain that interprets sight is also the region that conjures dreams and imagination. "So even if you lose your eyesight, as long as you have that part of your brain, you can still imagine, and you can still visualize," he said.

Four more turtles will be "hatched" in the coming year. A book deal is being considered as a companion guide to the public art trail.

Submitted by: Nancy Crouch



Photo credit: Lucie Lachance, GH resident



GHMA NEWSLETTER

Grand Haven Master Association, Inc.

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