



## *The Oak Tree*

### President's Message

#### RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMMITTEE

In prior issues of the Oak Tree, the purpose and function of the Architectural Design Committee (ADC) has been described via various articles, discussions and Q & A format. Perhaps the most basic explanation of the ADC is that when a property owner desires to make any exterior change to their residence (rental property included), landscaping, or initiate new construction, ADC approval is required.

In the past, there has existed a single ADC which was responsible for approving requests regarding both new construction/landscaping and modifications to existing structures/landscaping. However, moving forward, although the purpose and function of the ADC will remain unchanged, there will exist two distinct Architectural Design Committees.

One committee comprised of five members will be responsible for all decisions regarding the approval of plans and requests for all new construction and landscaping within Grand Haven.

The other committee will continue to be comprised of seven members and will be responsible for decisions regarding the approval of plans and requests for modifications to existing structures and landscaping within Grand Haven. This committee will be under the direction of the Grand Haven Master Association and will continue to function as an independent decision making body. The GHMA Board of Directors will, however, make every effort to ensure that the approval process is equitable and in accordance with the published ADC Standards. As this re-organization plan evolves, your Board will make every effort to keep the residents informed of its progress.

I also want to take this opportunity to express the Board's appreciation to the current members of the ADC. Each and every one of them has contributed their time, energy and expertise in helping develop Grand Haven into a very special place to live. The task of providing both flexibility and equity in light of the personalities, expectations and needs of some 1900 property owners is at times an extremely daunting task. They have consistently met this challenge and have done an exemplary job.

Lastly, on behalf of the GHMA Board, I want to thank the residents of our community for your support, feedback, suggestions and input. I would urge you to join us at the GHMA meetings and to get involved by volunteering your time and talents. We are always seeking individuals who would like to contribute to the future of Grand Haven.

Dr. Robert Jay 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, May 24, 2013  
 2 p.m., Friday, June 21, 2013  
 2 p.m., Friday, July 19, 2013  
 2 p.m., Friday, August 23, 2013  
 2 p.m., Friday, September 20, 2013  
 2 p.m., Friday, October 11, 2013 (Budget)  
 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



Landscape Mulch – Landscape mulch is required for landscape beds pursuant the GHMA ADC Standards. It is necessary to add to or refresh your landscape mulch from time to time (bi-annually).

The default approved ground cover for all properties is naturally colored, organic (pine) bark chips. Red, black or green mulch is not permitted.

REMEMBER – you should only add to or refresh the same landscape mulch that has been approved by the ADC for your landscape plan.

If you would like to utilize a different type of mulch or mulch alternative (rock) you will need to submit to the ADC for approval prior to installing.

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

## GHMA Board Members

PRESIDENT	Rob Carlton	447-5536	rjcarlton5@aol.com
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TREASURER	Gerald Kagan	445-0688	gjkagan@bellsouth.net
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## The Oak Tree

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	Gretchen Butler	Arne Herenstein
	Diane Voigt	Tom Byrne
	Anne Sciuto	Stephen Davidson

The Oak Tree seeks contributors to 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.

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## Coming in the Next Issue

- Real Estate: The New Reality
- Grand Haven: Next in a Series by Art Dycke
- Resident Watch: Patrick Williams

## CDD Corner

Fellow Residents,

This past January 2013 the Grand Haven Community Development District began implementation of a multipart program collectively known as "Keeping Grand Haven Grand"

Goals of the "Keeping Grand Haven Grand" program include:

- Enhancing safety and security at the entrances, amenities, and on the roads of the District,
- Reducing amenity repair and maintenance expenses due to unauthorized overutilization of District amenities,
- Maintaining and enhancing property values of all District property owners.

It is the responsibility of every property owner, resident, and/or tenant of the District to schedule an appointment with the Grand Haven Community Development District office to provide current information for entry into the new Master Resident Database, verify and confirm authorized use of road entrance Gate Access Devices, i.e. key fobs ("clickers") and/or card type Gate Access Devices, and obtain a new photo-identification Smart Amenity Access Card.

**Effective August 5, 2013**, property owners, tenants and residents who have not completed the registration process will discover that their **road entrance Gate Access Devices:**

- **will no longer open any District road entrance gate. They will be required to enter the District only thru the Visitor Entrance at the Main Gate, and will gain entry only after verification, each and every time, of their residency status by the guard at the Main Gate.**
- **guest/visitor names will be removed from unregistered residents' Preapproved Visitor Lists,**
- **and unregistered residents names will be removed from all gate call boxes, inactivating the #9 remote gate opening ability from the resident's home.**

Unregistered property owners, residents and tenants who have not obtained a new Photo Identification, scannable bar-coded Smart Amenity Access Card will be **denied use of all District amenities (Café excepted) and will not be permitted to invite or bring guests to use the District's amenities.**

**Please do not let this inconvenient and embarrassing situation happen to you!**

Contact the GHCCDD office right away at 386-447-1888, Monday to Friday 8 AM to 5 PM to schedule a registration appointment! **To make your appointment, please call Ashley Higgins or Victoria Kane in the GHCCDD office at 386-447-1888.**

The Board of Supervisors of the Grand Haven Community Development District, along with office staff, wishes to extend its gratitude to the following resident volunteers for providing valuable assistance during the initial re-registration process:

David Alfin	Diane Layng
Randy Armstrong	Richard Layng
Carol Ayres	Al LoMonaco
Hildegard Benedick	Vinnie LoMonaco
Kay Borer	Ewert Lynch
Kathleen Buchanan	Jim Lynch
Anne Byrne	Pat Maloney
Tom Byrne	Vincent Marmo
Nancy Carlton	Sherry Martin
Kathy Chiddister	Carol May
Nancy Crouch	Jane McLain
Tony DiBlanda	Eileen Mills
Anne Dolce	Lisa Mrakovic
Tony Dolce	Gene Murphy
Linda Dos Santos	Jack Pulick
Tony Dos Santos	Ginger Richards
Leslie Fisher	Anne Rogers
Marti Garziglia	Buddy Rogers
Charlie Greer	Joanna Salkovitz
Pam Gregg	Murray Salkovitz
Bruce Hamelin	Nell Santos
Joan Hamelin	Sandra Trautwein
Connie Hendy	Ivonne Wetjens
Bob Hopkins	Carla Wright
Terri Langan	Ray Wright
Eileen Larkin	

The first half of the re-registration process was a huge success, largely due to the efforts of the aforementioned volunteers. The CDD Office has currently registered over 55% of the entire community! Registration appointments are still being scheduled, **however we will no longer need volunteer assistance.**

**Thanks again to all who volunteered their time to work towards making Grand Haven Grand!**

Remember: For Property Information Forms, Instructions and Documents to bring with you, please go to the GHCCDD website at [www.grandhavencdd.org](http://www.grandhavencdd.org). All the forms are listed in the "What's NEW" area of the webpage. Copies of the forms and instructions can also be obtained from the CDD office:

2 North Village Parkway  
Palm Coast Florida 32137

### **Board of Supervisors**

Dr. Stephen Davidson, *Chair*  
Peter Chiodo, *Vice Chair*  
Marie Gaeta, *Assistant Secretary*  
Tom Lawrence, *Assistant Secretary*  
Ray Smith, *Assistant Secretary*

## Amy and Lewis Beilman Inspire and Give Back by Sandi Walker

Many residents of Palm Coast and Grand Haven know Lewis and Amy Beilman as a couple who works tirelessly together to give back to their community.

When the Beilmans first moved to Palm Coast in 2006, their initial volunteer effort was with the Flagler Humane Society. Their roles quickly grew as they became more involved with the shelter and in a short time both were board members and officers. For years, they devoted countless hours improving the operation of the facility and helping to save the lives of abandoned animals. Regrettably, their tenure at the shelter ended when Lewis developed throat cancer in 2011.

At the same time the Beilmans were making a significant difference at the Flagler Humane Society, they also started Move to Music in 2006. Twice a week for an hour, Amy transforms the Grand Haven room into a workout facility while Lewis provides the recorded music, which is unique for each class. Move to Music is an interval aerobic session designed so that men and women 30-80 years old can follow along at their own pace; high, medium or low impact. The routine really packs a punch and provides a complete body workout including a stretching segment that ends each class.

Amy and Lewis not only provide an aggressive physical workout but also an opportunity for participants to be part of a welcoming, happy social environment. If you stand in front of a Move to Music class, you can't help but notice the number of people who are smiling, joking with each other and singing along to the music as they exercise.

The vast range of ability and age add to the special elements of the class. One woman who has been taking Move To Music since it started six years ago is Dorothy Allen who had double knee replacement and credits the class in helping her recover. "Amy just puts her whole self into it," Allen said. "It's her enthusiasm. Amy and Lewis are an inspiration."\*

But for the Beilmans, the class participants are the inspiration. Amy and Lewis agree that it's a joy to see other people happy and enthused about exercising and trying to remain healthy. A definite inspiration is Marge Budzinski, 84, a cancer survivor who "rarely misses a class and never misses a beat!"\*

"This is a healing spot for an hour, twice a week," said Lewis, who now is also a cancer survivor.

Two years ago when Lewis was diagnosed with throat cancer, there were no support groups in Central Florida specific to patients with oral, neck or head cancer. That's when Amy took on the role of "Nurse Ratchet" and reached out to the national organization SPOHNC (Support for People with Oral, Head, Neck Cancer). "This organization was so helpful to us when we needed to understand the journey that was ahead. Chemotherapy and radiation of the oral areas produce unique side effects that are extremely challenging so a support group for oral cancer is vitally important. It's also not as well known as some of the other cancer groups."

When Lewis started to receive cancer free check ups, the Beilmans decided to give back once again and started a local chapter of SPOHNC so that patients and their families could meet once a month, in a safe environment, to share their experiences and feelings. One of the many benefits of this support group is that the participants help each other through various stages of their cancer journey.

Amy and Lewis started their SPOHNC chapter in June of 2012 at Creekside with six participants. Over the last 11 months the group has grown to 29 people. Amy passionately points out that their meetings "are not pity parties but rather evenings filled with positive, inspiring, uplifting exchanges between the participants." Amy chuckles as she points out "the meetings can actually be fun and definitely include a sense of humor. Our goal is to give people hope and a feeling that they're not on this difficult journey alone."

As the Palm Coast SPHONC chapter provided assistance to more and more people, a new ENT physician at Florida Hospital Flagler heard positive feedback from many of his patients concerning the support they were receiving from the Beilman's group. That's when Flagler Hospital reached out to Amy and Lewis in an effort to partner with them and encourage their efforts. Now the group has a larger meeting space at Flagler Hospital where the hospital also supplies refreshments for each meeting and promotes the group through their own channels.

Amy and Lewis are determined to raise awareness and increase support for head, neck and oral cancers. On Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, they held a special Move to Music class for the benefit of SPHONC. April has been designated nationally as "Oral Cancer Awareness Month" and at this writing, the Beilmans have raised more than \$2,000 for this important organization that has helped so many cancer patients survive life during and after their surgery and treatments. Next up, they will be participating in the June 8<sup>th</sup> National Cancer Survivor Day at Flagler Hospital. *Continued on Page 5*



Amy and Lewis Beilman, May 2013



## Volunteers Needed



Have you always wanted to get involved in Grand Haven but didn't know how? Here are some great opportunities for you to contribute to your community.

### Volunteer position #1:

Fine Committee Member

Job Description: Responsible for reviewing correspondence and hearing appeals to violation notices, and levying fines when violations have not been corrected. Training will be provided

Commitment: 1 hour on the third Wednesday of every month.

Meeting Location: Creekside Amenities Center

### Volunteer position #2:

Architectural Design Committee (ADC) Member

Job Description - Responsible for reviewing and approving/disapproving plans for changes to the exterior of homes and/or landscape. Working knowledge of architectural design standards and site planning preferred. Training will be provided.

Commitment - 2 hours on the first and third Wednesday of every month. Total time approximately 4 hours per month.

Meeting Location: Creekside Amenities Center

### Volunteer position #3:

Architectural Design Committee (ADC) Inspector

Job Description - Visit property addresses (on your own schedule) to ensure that both new construction/landscaping and modifications to existing structures/landscaping has received ADC approval and are in accordance with plans submitted. Working knowledge of architectural design standards and site planning preferred. Training will be provided.

Commitment - Approximately 2 hours per month.

For the three positions above, please call, email or mail your letter of interest by May 20th to Troy Railsback:

Southern States Management Group, Inc.

P.O. Box 354785

Palm Coast, FL 32135

386-446-6333

TRailsback@ssmgrouppinc.com

## Neighbor to Neighbor Program

### Volunteer position #4:

Neighbor to Neighbor Program

When you first moved to Grand Haven did you know when trash was collected? When you could water the lawn? Where the nearest post office was located? The difference between the CDD and the Master Association? How to use the call box at the gates? Would you have liked to have a neighbor visit you to help answer these and other questions and be a resource for the first few months?

Your Master Association is initiating a program called "Neighbor to Neighbor" to welcome new residents. We are looking for one volunteer from each village (two from Wild Oaks) who would welcome each new resident that moves into your neighborhood. A packet of information will be provided for each new resident for the volunteer to distribute. Items such as road maps, a calendar of Grand Haven activities, important numbers and web sites, bike and walking trail maps, local restaurants, etc. are all included in the packet.

An orientation meeting for all volunteers will be held in May to go over the information in the packets, provide guidelines for volunteers and answer any questions that volunteers might have. The program will start June 1st.

If you are interested in welcoming new homeowners to Grand Haven, please send your name, Village Name, email address and phone number no later than May 20th to: Terri Langan

(386-446-1960)

Langanmhoa@gmail.com

### **Beilmans, continued from Page 4**

Amy and Lewis emotionally explained, "We live in a VERY generous community. When the chips were down for us, so many people stepped up to help us through the biggest challenge of our life together. For that we are so truly grateful."

While Amy and Lewis always say that they receive countless benefits from Move to Music and their SPOHNC support group, they're very modest about the joy and love that they bring to the lives of so many people. Amy closes every Move to Music class by saying, "thank you for this day". The many people who are touched each day, week or month by Amy and Lewis are very thankful to this loving, generous, inspiring couple for all they do for other people.

\*Permission to use quotes

Shanna Fortier, Community Editor, Palm Coast Observer

## Neighborhood Watch

### Home Security Inspections Offered

Flagler County Sheriff James L. Manfre encourages residents to take advantage of the Sheriff's Office's free "Secure Home Star of Approval" program.

Home security is a primary concern of any homeowner. The Sheriff's Office is offering a free home inspection that will pinpoint possible problem areas and offer suggestions on making your house more secure.

The inspection is conducted by a certified Residential Home Security Inspector. This inspector is a volunteer with the Sheriff's Citizen Observer Patrol who has completed the training course sponsored by the Florida Attorney General's Office. Upon completion of the course, the inspector is the certified in the Home Star of Approval program.

The inspection takes only an hour. The homeowner must be present. There are no goods or services being sold through this program. It is strictly a volunteer program aimed at assisting local residents to make their homes less attractive to potential burglars.

The inspection includes assessing door and window security as well as adequate outside lighting and security. The inspectors' make recommendations only and homeowners are not required to implement those suggestions. The inspectors also do not endorse any specific product or business as part of these inspections.

Residents wishing to take advantage of this program may contact the Palm Coast Liaison Office (386) 586-2621 to set up an appointment.

Call the Sheriff's Office at 313-4911 if you see someone suspicious in your neighborhood.



## Architectural Design Standards

### Reminder

Grand Haven is designed to be a unique community of integrated villages. The community's Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions do not list specific design items necessary for plan approval. Rather, the authority to approve or disapprove individual building and landscaping plans is given to the Architectural Design Committee (ADC).

The ADC does not seek to restrict individual creativity or preferences, but rather to maintain the overall aesthetic relationship between homes, natural amenities, golf course and surrounding neighbors.

Below is a list of items that you may find helpful when it becomes necessary to make change (s) to your landscaping, exterior of your residence or if you decide to build a new home.

- When should I request ADC approval? ANY exterior change that is being made to your personal home, rental residence or new construction must be submitted to the ADC for approval.
- When does the ADC meet? The ADC meets at 9:00 AM every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Creekside Amenity Center.
- How do I submit my request? The easiest method of submitting a request is to go on the Grand Haven website [www.grandhavenmhoa.com](http://www.grandhavenmhoa.com). From there, click on ADC. You will find the entire ADC standards and the necessary forms required for your submittal. Complete the forms with the necessary documents and put the submittal in the white box on Marlin Dr., next to the parking lot at Creekside Amenity Center.
- **Who do I contact if I have questions? Your best contact person is Brandy Despang at Southern States Management Group: [bdespang@ssmgroupinc.com](mailto:bdespang@ssmgroupinc.com) or 386-446-6333x306. Or, you may contact any member of the ADC listed on the website.**

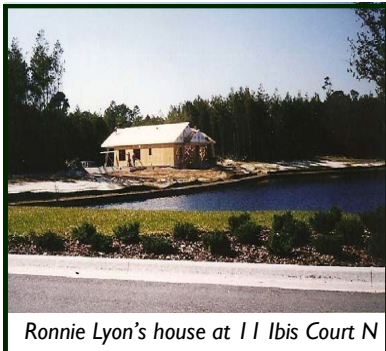
Please be mindful that rules and restrictions are put into place to help preserve the beauty of Grand Haven. Please take a moment to complete the necessary forms and then submit them for review and approval so that you will be in compliance with those rules and restriction.

Your Architectural Design Committee

## Grand Haven: Sixth in a Series

*Sixth in a series by Art Dycke* Editor's note: Prior issues of **The Oak Tree** covered the history of Grand Haven from 25 Million B.C. to 1996. To review, in 1969, ITT, the development's original planner, received authorization to build the Grand Haven development (known at that time as River Club). While ITT completed many other projects in this area, its development of River Club/Grand Haven was not to be. In August 1995, ITT sold the undeveloped land to Lowe Enterprises.

The history of Grand Haven resumes with the continued development of Lake Haven Village. The areas of Sailfish Drive, Sandpiper Court, Flamingo Court, Pelican Court and Ibis Court comprise the Lake Haven Village, which makes it a very unique village within Grand Haven. The first three areas were built with the fences and porches that the original developer envisioned as the style for Grand Haven. When building began in Ibis Court styles began to change within Grand Haven. Residents chose builders who would build in the "Florida Style" which many new residents expected when moving into their new community. The Abbey's on Ibis Court North were the first to select Arthur Ruttenberg to build their home and further down the street the LoMonaco's opted for an ICI home.



Ronnie Lyon's house at 11 Ibis Court N

Fairway's Edge was the third village to be built, with many homes constructed on the pond along the 11th hole on the golf course. In late spring of 1998, residents began moving into their new homes, including the Botelho, Chiodo and Whitney families. No sooner had they moved

into their homes than they were forced to evacuate due to the fires that ravaged Palm Coast.

Frank Botelho remembers that lightening was not the only reason for fires. In 1999 a golf utility cart was driven into a ditch just west of the doublewide clubhouse. The engine continued to run, the overheated muffler ignited the grass and the fire spread to the pine woods. The fire department, aided by a fortunate wind shift, contained the fire.

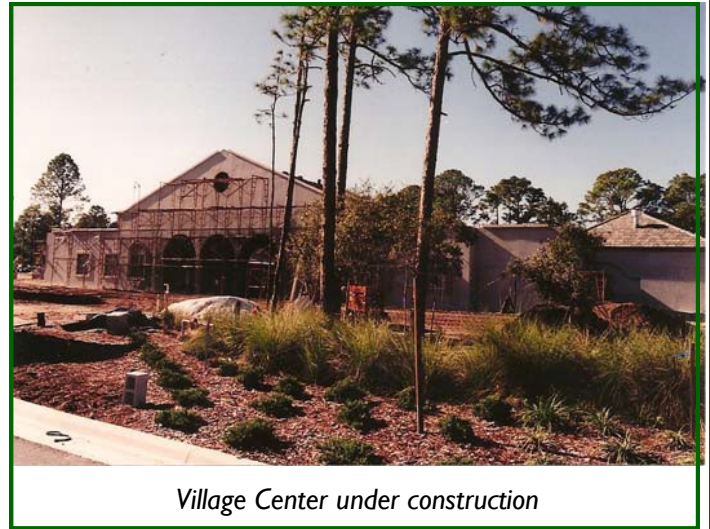
The fourth village on the scene was The Reserve. Pulte had contracted to build 61 homes on Shinnecock Drive, but in 1999 with 40 homes built or under contract, they sold the remaining lots at the end of the street to Centex. The Centex end of the street would soon be named Linkside West.

The first resident moved into the fifth village called Linkside in October of 1998. John Romaine recalls that a section of the wall around the Linkside pond was not completed at the south end when he first occupied his new home. Through his efforts and those of his neighbors, the developer finished the wall.

Across the street from Linkside, Linkside East became the 6th village in 1999. Early resident Jim Harter recalls that a pond had been promised for the village but it did not exist because it had not been on the original plans. Aroused residents pursued the matter and the pond was provided as promised.

The Centex village of Linkside West became the 7th village. The Piscitello's were the first residents and although they were a village at the end of The Reserve, they were warmly accepted at all of The Reserve social gatherings.

By the second quarter of 1999 Grand Haven had a couple hundred homes built or under construction. Residents eagerly waited for the promised amenity center to open.



Village Center under construction

On April 1, 1999 Grand Haven celebrated the opening of the \$4 million Village Center. Grand Haven owners were given the first opportunity to enjoy the center at a private party with catered refreshments, live entertainment and a tour of the state of the art facility. Local realtors, VIPs and the general public were invited to an open house celebration held from April 8 to the 10th. The festivities included food, entertainment and tours of the facility as well as an old-time trolley tour of the community and model homes.

The center, located on 7 acres, was built in traditional Spanish style architecture, using rough sawn cedar timbers, exposed rafters and decorative capitals. The style continued with an artistic hand-wrought metal design with a lacy sea motif pattern that surrounds the pool, the arched openings and window frames. Colorful decorative tile was used throughout the pool, floors, tables and spa.

The Village Center included a junior Olympic sized heated swimming pool, two regulation style clay tennis courts, as well as facilities for bocce, shuffleboard, croquet, horseshoes and basketball, plus a tot lot to keep the kids busy. The center also included a European style coffee shop/library, a fitness room, men's and women's locker rooms.

All was grand in Grand Haven.

## Tech Blog by Arne Herenstein

TechBlog is a new feature of The Oak Tree that will review current technology topics, products / service reviews, tips, tools and techniques to make technology really work for you. Arne has been in the technology industry for far longer than he cares to admit. He is currently the Chief information Officer for a large financial services organization. Suggestions for future subjects are most welcome at [TechBlog@yahoo.com](mailto:TechBlog@yahoo.com).

### Gone Phishing

We all communicate using technology everyday. Email and mobile telephones are clearly part of our lives. Today's TechBlog will focus on email. As with most things, there are both good and bad sides to the story. Later on we will get to some things you can do to protect yourselves and avoid the bad parts of email.

About 90% of all email sent today is spam. Do any of you really believe that you have a long lost uncle in Nigeria that has left you \$12,500,000? Or that you can regain your youth, grow more hair, make various body parts larger, or earn \$250,000 per year working at home with no skill or training? You probably do not. But you might believe that you missed a FedEx delivery or that your bank or credit card company wants to reach you.

As a result, the junk mail flows more rapidly today in an effort to increase "Phishing". **Phishing** is an attempt to acquire information such as usernames, passwords, and credit card details (and sometimes, indirectly, money) by pretending to be a trustworthy source in an email. And even if you don't send information directly, it may well be stolen by computer software that is placed on your computer secretly after you open an email or click a link. Names, addresses, passwords and credit card numbers all have great value on the black market.

### Just for the fun of knowing

So why is junk email called Spam? There are a couple of schools of thought about that. The generally accepted version is that it comes from the Monty Python song, "Spam, spam, spam, spam, spam, spam, spam, spam, lovely spam, wonderful spam". Like the song, spam is an endless repetition of worthless text.

Another version maintains that it comes from the computer lab at the University of Southern California who gave it the name because it has many of the same characteristics as the lunchmeat Spam:

- Nobody wants it or ever asks for it.
- No one ever eats it; it is the first item to be pushed to the side on a plate in the school cafeteria. Sometimes it is actually tasty, like 1% of junk mail that is really useful to some people

### So what can you do to protect yourself?

**Use a Spam Filter:** Most email services provide this service. It blocks the most common forms of spam by recognizing known spam sources or by the way the email is sent. The settings or preferences usually allows you to control how "aggressive" you want the filter to be

**Don't trust unsolicited email:** If you won't open your door to strangers, don't do it for email you didn't ask for.

**Treat email attachments with caution:** Attachments can execute programs that will hide in your computer and activate later on to give away your personal data (these are called Zero Day programs). If you don't know or trust the source, don't open it.

**Don't click links in email messages:** Again, check the source. If you don't know and trust them, exercise great caution. A great source for checking on the truth or validity of an email is [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com).

**Install antivirus software and a personal firewall and keep them up to date:** Most Internet service providers will give you license to these tools free. For example, Brighthouse Networks provides a full set of security tools that are easy to install and maintain.

Hopefully, this is useful information for you to use in protecting yourself online. So next time you get that email about your uncle who passed away in Lagos, be suspicious .....



## Flagler Humane Society

The Flagler Humane Society is the only facility in Flagler County that takes in all animals—whether they are strays, lost, or surrendered by their owners. Every animal that is taken in is promised that FHS will ensure that it has the best possible opportunity to find a loving forever home. That's quite a lofty goal and we can only do that with the on-going help and support from our community.

We're offering you and your family a chance to be part of our FHS family by becoming a Humane Hero. As a Humane Hero member, you will help to make sure that homeless animals, with no other place to go, will continue to get the care they need and deserve.

Last year, FHS took in more than 4,000 animals and averages 300 animals in our Shelter on any given day. It costs a lot of money to provide shelter, food and medical care for that many animals for as long as it takes for them to find a home. FHS receives no direct government funding or funding from national, state, or local agencies. All revenue comes from contracts with local municipalities to provide specific services, fees, grants, donations, and fundraising events.

Did you know that FHS pays:

- \$1,100 a month for the mortgage on the building in which the animals are sheltered?
- \$15,000 a month for veterinary services, medical supplies, and equipment?
- \$3,000 a month for food for all the animals?
- \$4,500 a month for water, electricity and other utilities?
- \$30,000 a month for personnel costs?
- \$1,700 a month for insurance?

FHS is very proud of our accomplishments in the past year. We have cut our operating costs by more than \$50,000 a year, increased our adoptions by more than 50 percent, cut our euthanasia rate in half, partnered with other shelters and rescue groups to help find good



This is **Gazelle**. She's a one-year old cat who's had a sad life until now. Gazelle was surrendered by her owner (too many animals) in July 2012. She was adopted in October but abandoned in January 2013. It's hard to believe but she was again abandoned in March! But, there's the charm and Gazelle was adopted on April 19 and we're sure she's finally found her forever home.



homes for animals, and expanded our spay/neuter programs to reduce the numbers of animals being born in our community. We also invite you to review our first-ever audited financial statement (available on our website, [www.flaglerhumanesociety.org](http://www.flaglerhumanesociety.org)) which clearly shows our financial position.

We need your support more than ever! The animals are counting on you to help them find their new family. Gandhi once said that, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way that its animals are treated." Help us prove that Flagler County will be judged favorably in that light.

### Upcoming Events

May 29, 2013 is the date for our next Yappy Hour at the Beachside Beanery on A1A. Join us from 6 to 8 pm for some music, drinks, snacks, and great fun! And bring your dog with you. We love to see all the dogs that attend our Yappy Hours!

June 8, 2013 is our First Annual Poker Run which will start at the Black Cloud at 9:00 am. All vehicles are welcome so drive on over and have a great time!

Please check out our website to keep current on all of the Shelter's news, upcoming events, and photos of our available animals. [www.flaglerhumanesociety.org](http://www.flaglerhumanesociety.org). You can even donate to us right from the website.

Also, please like us on Facebook, both Flagler Humane Society and Blue Moon Sanctuary.

**Trip** came to the Flagler Humane Society as an abandoned dog brought in by Animal Control. He was aggressive with a serious infection throughout his blood stream due to a front leg injury, was emaciated and malnourished. Nicole Brose, a Grand Haven resident who serves on the board of the humane society, met Trip and she and her husband, Gary, decided to foster him. A few weeks after that, he went to Shelton Veterinary Hospital to have his front leg amputated. It took several months to heal, all while recovering in the Brose home. Of course, as so often happens, this was a failed foster and Nicole and Gary officially adopted Trip.



## Grand Haven Critters: Turkey Vultures *by Anne Sciuto*

A rather familiar sight when soaring in our blue Florida skies, the majestic Turkey Vulture is easy to identify by its finger-tipped wings and bald head. Far more graceful in flight than partaking of a meal on the ground, vultures can glide for hours on thermals conserving their energy with very little wing beating while they search for food. A group of vultures is known as a "Venue" while a group circling on thermals is often called a "Kettle". (Trivia players take note!)

The Turkey Vulture, also known as "turkey buzzard" is one of our largest birds and is as big as an eagle with a six-foot wing span. They appear black from a distance but their feathers are brown with lighter edges, a bald red head and a light beak. That bald head is a perfect asset, making it easier to clean when bits of animal tissue get stuck to it. By the way, vultures do take baths.

Although classed as a raptor, the turkey vulture does not kill prey, it eats carrion. Whenever we see a "venue" of vultures surrounding a carcass, making "minced meat" of it, so to speak, we should be very glad, as these vultures are nature's own sanitation workers. The majority of wild animals are killed by disease, starvation, fights, accidents and road-kill, so there is plenty of work for vultures to do. Without their efforts to remove decaying meat, our air and groundwater would be contaminated and so, by ridding the earth of decaying stuff they help halt the spread of disease. Other creatures, such as maggots, might dispose of dead animals but it is unlikely we would appreciate their large numbers, their unattractive appearance and a much slower pace of clean-up. So perhaps we should not find it so disgusting when we see vultures tearing apart and devouring our local road kill; they are doing us a favor.

The Turkey Vulture is uniquely suited for this type of work because the digestive acids in their stomachs kills bacteria and viruses. Besides that, although this sounds gross, a vulture will poop and urinate on its legs and feet when it steps into a carcass. The uric acid thus expelled will kill any bacteria it has picked up - so vulture poop is actually a sanitizer. (Isn't it surprising that some enterprising entrepreneur has not yet found a market for it?)



Vultures find their food during the day by eyesight and smell. Birds in general have no sense of smell but the turkey vulture had this added advantage. A keen sense of smell allows it to zone in on gases like mercaptan, given off by decaying meat. They have poor night-time vision so do not feed at night. They also do **not** circle dying animals and also circling vultures do not always indicate presence of a dead animal. Sometimes they are just gathering to find a thermal, although occasionally they will congregate aloft waiting until there is a sufficient number of them to efficiently dispose of a large carcass. I guess they can only eat so much at a time and are willing to share! Preferring fresh kill, they turn up their noses at putrefying meat, just as we might! Unless there is absolutely nothing else to eat, a turkey vulture will not eat dogs, cats etc., much preferring herbivores which are more tasty, they tell us.

Turkey vultures do not make nests but lay their eggs on the ground even though this leaves them vulnerable to raccoons and snakes etc. Neither do they sing but they do hiss and grunt if threatened. They are gentle and un-aggressive creatures and having them around definitely an advantage. However, should anyone be tempted to own their own private scavenger, please be forewarned, Turkey Vultures are protected under the Migratory Bird Act of 1918 so it is illegal to own one!



## News from the Nest by Gretchen Butler

Well spring is here!! Although Palm Coast received our fair share of rainfall in one dumping, eagles and most wildlife are tough and find refuge. Mom eagle seemed pleased and so regal basking in the sun after such a long stretch of wind and rain.

While our alligators, deer, bobcats (and much of Florida wildlife) are starting their breeding season, our Florida eagles are concluding their nesting season.....unlike the eagles of the north that are now having hatches and starting to raise their young.

Our resident eagle pair at Wild Oaks are still in the nest area and will likely leave separately for "someplace cooler" in a few weeks. They successfully raised two chicks that took to their "highway in the sky" heading to more tolerable climates on April 15th (at 17 weeks right on schedule). Although one youngster made a brief return.....likely looking for a free meal from mom and dad.



"You go first" .... "No, you go!"

**THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL**.....was commonly seen over the past few months in the nest area as intruding eagles relentlessly found their way to this precious real estate mom and dad have constructed. The nest likely weighs approximately a ton and each stick was strategically delivered one by one by our committed eagle pair over the past several years. It has become commonplace to see mom or dad dart from the nest chasing off other eagles. Their message is quite clear thru their fierce flight and piercing screech as they protect their territory and their young with their life. They are often seen in the process of (almost) locking talons mid-air with their opponent which can lead to battle.....or chasing after an osprey's freshly caught fish. The eagle usually wins as the osprey drops his catch and the eagle seamlessly intercepts it in mid air.....quite a site!



As usual the fledging season didn't go without incidents. One youngster "Jack" found himself in the preserve grounded for the night on his first attempt at flight. Luckily he was spotted the next morning without injury or harmed by a ground predator. He managed to take flight that

evening to a nearby tree....quite an accomplishment for a newbie to take flight from the ground! Early the next morning he made a mad dash to the nest..... Most likely quite hungry after two days out of the nest.

The other fledgling "Lo" decided to take her first flight at dusk (not such a good decision). She landed on the top of a tree offering little support for a bird of her size. She did manage to quickly take flight back to the nest, but considering it was getting dark and she was inexperienced, she slammed into the nest and fell. Again we quickly went into "rescue mode" to insure the safety of the fledgling. It soon got too dark and the only thing spotted was a barred owl overhead. Early the next morning "Jack To The Rescue"..... as they were flying back to the nest together. From that point on they worked on their flying and landing skills and enjoyed hanging out with mom and dad perched like "big kids" and soaring like eagles!



"Lo" taking flight

Two days after the fledglings left another immature eagle took up residency. By the markings, size and experience of the eagle, it was quite certain she was "Whitey" from their last years brood. "Whitey" was seen perched near the nest tree, in the nest and attempting to grab a fish from mom eagle in mid-air! She too was likely back for a free meal. Given the beautiful nature of eagles, mom was even feeding "Whitey" in the nest.....something that wouldn't happen if the youngsters from this season were still around.

Fly Eagles Fly and Eagle On!



Mom chillin with the kids



Graphic by Suzie Cooper

Submitted by:  
Gretchen Butler  
Audubon EagleWatch  
Nest Monitor/Volunteer  
Grand Haven Resident

Photos by Tatine Rehm and  
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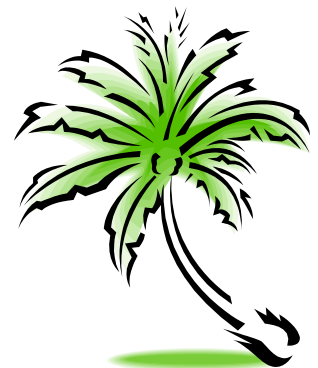
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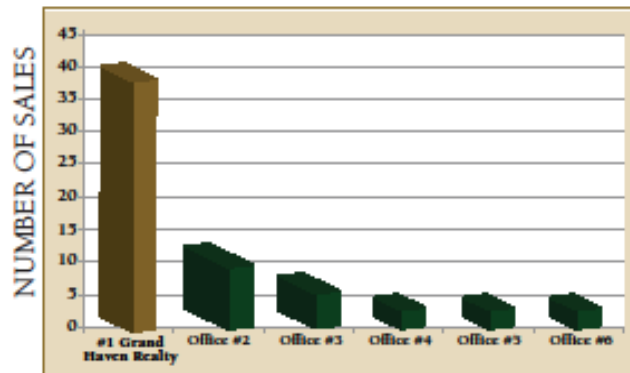
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