



Winter 2016 Newsletter

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Please go to the Seaside Plantation website for additional news and to access board meeting minutes.

www.seasideplantationnmb.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January, 2016

With Christmas and the New Years' celebrations in the rear view mirror and the daylight hours becoming longer, we are starting to anticipate spring upon the horizon. So far, we have been blessed with a milder winter and have enjoyed warmer temperatures than in recent years. Mid-January, February, and early March are typically the most quiet time of the year in our neighborhood. Family visitors, children, and grandchildren have returned home, and we can now really focus on quality social time with our neighbors and near-by friends. Our many Seaside social activities provide a plethora of opportunities to reach out to meet new people in a variety of different activities within our community. Be on the look-out for emails outlining many activities from our Social Committee, and please plan to join us—we are a very welcoming and social crew!

We truly have, in my opinion, the most unique neighborhood in North Myrtle Beach. Seaside is one of very few gated communities east of Route 17—and just steps from our beautiful beaches. We are a short walk or golf cart ride away from a vibrant Main Street with activities such as street concerts, parades, festivities, and live bands, almost nightly. We have so many restaurants available that offer a multitude of diverse choices to appease any appetite at just about any price point. And we have shopping from A to Z...it's really all here!

I am honored to represent our neighborhood, and to follow in the footsteps of such qualified past leaders who have brought us to this secure place. Since this is my first newsletter article as your new President, I think it is appropriate to update you on past accomplishments, as well as to share my vision for 2016.

Our previous Board, led by Larry Shoffner, laid the foundation for many of our financial considerations for the near term. They beneficially renegotiated

our many operating contracts, producing savings that will help ensure we are prepared for the future. They also defined and revalidated our long-term reserve studies, preparing us for future requirements and improvements that will occur as our neighborhood matures. Larry was preceded by Drew Gillespie, whose fingerprints are all over our community in too many ways to count! Long-term community leaders like Fred George, Mike and Barbara Hicks, and many others before my time are thankfully still engaged and willing to support us with their business acumen. I am thankful for their legacies, their past leadership, and their continued assistance when requested.

Just as our individual homes require routine maintenance, our community also requires mandatory up-keep. These areas include landscaping, carpeting, appliances, heating and air conditioning, painting, power washing, tree removal, etc. But, unlike us with our homes, the Property Owners Association (POA) is also responsible for streets, curbs, gutters, gates, lakes, a community pool, and lighting. In addition to addressing these maintenance needs when they arise, your Board is also tracking and saving for long-term lake management, bank erosion control, and bulk-heading in response to our shorelines showing areas of decline. Please read the Public Works article in this issue addressing how we all need to do our part to mitigate future costs that are sure to arise regarding the lakes and ponds.

With these major financial issues in check and being conservatively managed, my focus this year will be in managing to our plan and improving our community's visibility and common area appearance. Our neighborhood's desirable real estate marketability will be invaluable to our home and property investments, producing the largest return on our investments (ROI) as possible within our market slot. Our "front doors" (gates) are getting a much-needed face lift. This small investment alone portrays us as the vibrant, well-managed community we are to potential buyers and friends. Just like those in your own yards, our plants and shrubs must be refreshed, severely cut back, and shaped

to appear fresh, vibrant, and healthy. Our signage must be refreshed and our lighting updated. Over 70% of our main gate, rear gate, and Amenity Center grounds' landscape lighting are not functioning. Thankfully, with technological advancements and cooperation from our electrical power provider, we will update our landscape lighting with rebates and energy and maintenance savings that will nearly pay for themselves over their lifecycle.

Another focus this year will be communication. We know our website content is not up to date, and our delivery system of information is stuck in very early 2000 technology. We are fortunate to have some volunteers in our community willing to provide much-needed expertise in improving the way we distribute information to you. Look for updated website information and monthly social activities depicted in a true calendar format. This format will enable you to print the calendar for review at a glance, or to simply pull up on your phone, computer, or other devices. As our neighborhood changes and grows, many of our incoming families are much more accustomed to hand-held and tablet formats to track their daily existence. Let's face it—many of us today live with a computer in our pockets and reach for it often to keep track of our busy lives. I am not advocating any kind of big

investment here; I am talking about utilizing the tools we currently pay for, are available to us, and aren't using to the fullest. I think you will see some improvements by the next newsletter. Stay tuned...

We have also realigned our committees as outlined by the articles you will read in this newsletter. These changes are more logical, based on the disciplines, function, and interactions of the different committees and how they are dependent upon each other. At the end of this newsletter, you will find an attachment of our committees and their responsible leaders. Feel free to contact the leaders for information about any activities or upcoming events in the social groups. We welcome new ideas, members, and suggestions. My cell phone number and email are included—and I carry my communication device in my pocket pretty much 24/7! I promise you that I will respond to your inquiry within 48 hours, unless I'm out of the country, which is extremely rare. Please feel free to contact us if you need us, have a suggestion, a complaint, or even a compliment.

Mike Baker
Seaside POA President
Cell (301) 367-3133

Public Works Committee Report

Mike Baker – Chair
Fred George
Phil Ahlschlager

Public Works (PW) is a newly formed committee that consolidates a number of logically similar elements within our community. Although managing these items requires almost daily inspections and maintenance, they are almost invisible to most of us. Our streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, street lighting, lakes, lake fountains, wildlife management, landscape lighting, entrance walls, columns and signs, street signs, lake front erosion, rip rap, and bulkhead are included in the responsibilities of the committee. We are fortunate to have Fred George continue to support us in many of the lake, fountain, and wildlife aspects of this committee. His specialized talent is a necessary and welcome attribute to us all.

The committee's focus during this quarter is as follows:

- Refreshing of our gate entrances. We have chemically cleaned the walls, streets, sidewalks and gutters, with results better than expected.
- Painting of our two entrance Seaside script signs. If weather permits, we hope this will be completed by the end of January. A fresh gold paint should brighten our appearance.
- Installation of the much talked about new LED landscape lighting throughout the neighborhood will begin February 1st, with an anticipated completion date of March 1st.
- Ad hoc street sign repairs and fresh paint. As street signs rot and expire, we will replace them with a maintenance-free white PVC vinyl product that has a 30-year minimum life cycle.
- Street patching pavement repairs at East Coast Lane at the site of recent gutter repairs and at Sea Island Way at the main gate entrance area.

We hope these improvement projects will give us a facelift while adding value and longevity to our community and its marketability.

Lakes and Ponds Health

The previous Seaside Board authorized the mapping of our lakes to determine the depths and health of these important watersheds. While we love to look at the lakes, they are also a vital component of our storm water control system. The biblical-proportions storm we experienced in September demonstrated how important the lake is to our property values; they are not just an aesthetic attribute, but an important watershed to help protect us from flood waters. The depth of the lakes is critical, and mapping them to determine these depths is a very important guide to help us manage them. The results of that study indicated that we must be diligent with the way we dump storm water into the lakes. The small lake is showing significant silt build up along Tradewinds and around Ocean Pointe. With this in mind, we are working closely with the Architectural Review Board (ARB) committee to assure that best practices are followed when new construction and remodeling occurs throughout the community. New and remodeling construction-generating gutter/downspout runoff is now required to be filtered through a series of ground pits and fabric on your property prior to being directed to storm drains or across property lines. Any land disturbance must utilize a silt fence application whether it's simple landscaping, hardscape, or foundation digging.

We've built a reserve fund to dredge the lake in the next 15 plus years. We must do what we can to get to that point, or face an alternate funding source. If we all pull together, and utilize the ARB required process, I feel comfortable we can make it to the finish line. Every little bit helps, so if you're not sure, please ask us for guidance. All board and committee members are checking any activities around the neighborhood to assure compliance and are reporting activities to the ARB chairperson to assist with silt reduction methods. The lake dredging is our largest budget reserve component and we only started saving for it this past year. It's in all of our best interests to do our small part to reduce the need to dredge anytime soon.

Lake Bank Erosion

The large lake has had two major cave-ins that will require shoring up since the big September storm/rain event. Both cave-ins are surrounding the Clubhouse. As mentioned in an email last month, we have cordoned off an area near the left pool entrance. The other fault is in the rear of the pool bathrooms. This one is not a safety concern, but, unfortunately, our spa heater is dangerously close to falling into the lake. Actions to repair these breaches are under advisement by our engineering resources. We will report on those actions and our approach in the near future, via email. All other PW activities are running smoothly and normally at the time of this writing.

Contributed by Mike Baker

Architectural Review Board

Your Architectural Review Board (ARB) is chaired by Phil Ahlschlager. Members on the Committee include Mike Baker, Larry Shoffner, and Skip Friz. The ARB is comprised of three key elements: pre-construction, construction, and post-construction. The mission is to enforce the Seaside Plantation Architectural Guidelines as set forth by the Seaside Plantation Property Owners Association. A copy of these guidelines, along with additional details on when to file an ARB application, is on the Seaside Plantation website, www.seasideplantationnmb.com. It is important that we all follow these guidelines to assure we have an attractive, compatible and aesthetically pleasing community that meets our neighborhood standards as well as being in compliance with any NMB local ordinances. In addition, by using this process we also help the security of our neighborhood by knowing who is coming in and for what reason.

So far, it has been somewhat busy over the past few months, as we have had eight ARB applications submitted. These applications include such things as tree removal, requests for home improvements and some major landscaping changes/improvements. All of these applications were discussed with the individual homeowner, reviewed, and all have been approved, with a few requiring some modifications. If you have the need for an ARB application, you can access one from our website, and you can send it directly to me via e-mail at pcaboard@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support of the ARB process and please contact anyone on the committee if you have any questions.

Contributed by Phil Ahlschlager

Community Landscaping & Holiday Decorations

In 2016, many of our committees have been restructured to be more effective and efficient. The new Community Landscaping & Holiday Decorations Committee has the responsibility for landscaping of all common areas, our Amenity Center, the pool area, both entrance gates, street circles, common area sprinklers/pumps, yard appearance, and holiday decorations. New additions this year include accountability for yard appearance and holiday decorations. This covers a lot of territory and that's why we have an outstanding group of individuals with a good mix of experience on our committee.

The 2016 committee members include Phil Ahlschlager (Chair), Nancy Revella, Nancy Fleischer, Gary Kumerfield, Jerry Russo, Rudy Passafiume, and Tricia White, who is our Coordinator for Holiday Decorations. You may have already seen Tricia's outstanding work with the beautiful holiday



decorations

we had this year at our Amenity Center and at our two entrance gates. If you see Tricia, please thank her for all the hard work she did to make our neighborhood look special again this holiday season. I would also like to recognize and thank Pete Sansone for his handy work in cutting out the many new trees you see at our front gates as part of our holiday decorations.

After doing a community wide landscape review, we found many areas that needed improvement. One of those areas was the pruning/trimming of trees and shrubs, along with the removal of some dead trees and bushes. Many trees had not been trimmed for a number of years and this has led to low hanging limbs in walkways; they were also preventing sunlight from maintaining the health of many existing plantings. The project is underway and you may have already seen this activity

happening. The Amenity Center, pool area, and entrance gates will be the initial areas of focus. I expect this process to be completed by mid-February. Once this is finished, we will be ready for our Spring planting of flowers and a sprinkler audit, followed by a major project in 2016 of a complete landscaping redesign/refresh of the Main gate area, including new sod.

any feedback or concerns that we can address or any information we can relay back to our landscaping contractor. Each month the committee will be working hard to assure Seaside Plantation is the most attractive neighborhood in the area. Thank you for your support.

Contributed by Phil Ahlschlager

Please let any committee member know if you have

Amenity Center

Since being elected to the Board, I have come to appreciate the amount of time and effort required for prior Board members to fulfill their duties. This spring, the railings around the porch will be painted and some rotted posts and caps will be replaced. The hot tub will be closed from January 1st until March 15th. During the winter, the lights around the pool and grounds will be changed to LED lights.

Upon inspection of the outside area, it was noted that a sink hole had developed on the lake side of the Clubhouse. At this time, we have cordoned off the area with yellow caution tape. A similar situation exists in the rear of the building. We are currently reviewing different options to correct these problems. The Clubhouse carpeting will be cleaned in late winter.

Parking at the clubhouse is by permit (permit information is on our website) except when attending Seaside approved or sponsored events.

Contributed by Peter Sansone

Financial Report

In reviewing our financial situation, it appears that the actual normal expenses versus budgeted expenses are in line. The large, unexpected repairs to the East Coast Lane storm drain last year will require us to review our reserves and potentially use some of the reserves to provide for those costs. Regardless of that, our financial position is healthy.

Contributed by Peter Sansone



Safety, Security, and Technology (SST)



The newly formed SST Team covers a broad brush of safety and technology issues, including gate access, Amenity Center cameras, phone and data, neighborhood watch, gate and pool security cameras, and Amenity fire alarms. We work closely with the Social and Community Activity Team for communication, the newsletter, and the Amenity Center Team. Team members include me, Jim Hill, Bob and Carolyn Query, and Eric and Jeanne Hendrix.

This last quarter we had significant damage to the Main Gate machinery. One of our home landscapers was towing a trailer and clipped the adjacent exit gate as they were entering to work on one of two of our yards. The damage was extensive enough to spin the gate machinery off its foundation. Unfortunately, our security camera was unable to read the license plate because the view was blocked by the trailer. This was resolved by the "Seaside Detective Agency" that searched the community for a matching truck and trailer. At first, when questioned, the landscaper denied hitting the gate. When confronted with a video record, he admitted it and blamed being in a hurry because he thought the gate timer might close the gate on his trailer. This is not true. The gate uses a magnetic sensor in the ground to close the gate when both the car and trailer pass through. Once they are past the gate, the sensor closes the gate to prevent piggy backing.

All homeowners should be aware that any long trucks and trailers are to use the back gate (aka the Construction Gate) which has a straight path through the gate. The main gate has a double curved entrance around the garden water fountain. The tight turns at the curve increases the probability of hitting the companion exit gate with an extended length vehicle. Residents should warn their landscapers and other contractors not to use the main gate with any large vehicle or any vehicle with a trailer. Similarly, residents should not use the main entrance when hauling a trailer (including boats) or when driving a long truck or RV.

Contributed by Frank Fleischer

Social and Community Activities

A bold new initiative will be in place this year to improve communications to residents of Seaside Plantation. One of the first things we will do in reaching that goal is to update our website. We also want to be sure public information, such as addresses and phone numbers, is up-to-date.



Social life is very active here in Seaside. Another goal of ours is to maintain that high level of social life as well as to improve it with new ideas. We are always looking for suggestions from all residents. Many people, including new ones, have stepped up to offer unique talents to these committees. It is truly appreciated that so many are willing to help on these committees, and that everyone is involved in making this the best community on the Grand Strand!

Contributed by Gary Kumerfield

The Lifestyle Committee wishes every resident of Seaside Plantation all the best as we plan social events in 2016! Be sure to mark on your calendar on **February 7th** for the **Super Bowl Party**. Announcements will be out shortly from our friends Jeri and Skip Friz for the next Thursday Evening Social. These Socials are a great contribution to our lifestyle here in Seaside. Watch for the announcements for these and other events as the dates draw near. Please talk to any member of this committee if you have an idea of a function you would like to see happen here in Seaside. The Committee members include Jeri Friz, Cathy Ahlschlager, Linnie Russo, Miriam Compliment, Mike Hicks, and Gary Kumerfield.

Contributed by Gary Kumerfield

Seaside Men's Golf League

This year Rex White, phone number **(843) 340-9010** and Gary Kumerfield, phone number **(843) 280-9755** are the Commissioners of the Men's Golf League. We play every other Wednesday at Crow Creek, which is one of the best on the Strand. All men are welcome to play. If you are not receiving emails regarding any golf in Seaside and would like to play, please give one of us a call. We always have room for more golfers—of all abilities!

Contributed by Gary Kumerfield

Traveling Golf League

Every other Wednesday, the Seaside Traveling League plays at different courses around the Grand Strand. This program gives us all an organized alternative to our regular Seaside League at Crow Creek on the other Wednesdays of the month. Please let Jeff **(843) 267-0821**, or Larry **(843) 424-2696** know if you want to play but are not getting email notices of times and courses being played.

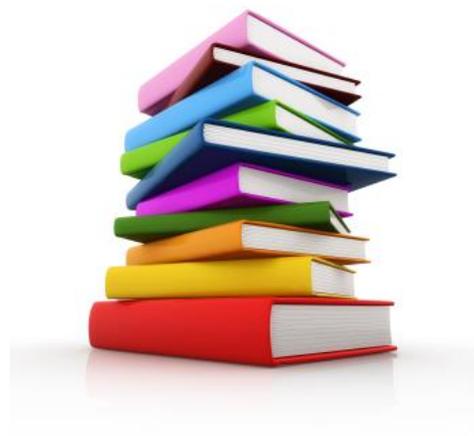
Chaired by Jeff Adams and Larry Etzkorn



Book Club

It's time once again for the Seaside Plantation Book Club. We met on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, at the Club House in the Amenity Center at 7:00 pm to discuss *THE CUCKOO CALLING* by John Galbrith (aka J.K. Rowlings). Below is our schedule for this year:

1. Jan. 19, *THE CUCKOO CALLING*, by John Galbrith (aka J.K. Rowlings)
2. Feb. 16, *I AM MALALA YOUSAFZAI*, authored by herself
3. Mar. 15, *THE MURDER HOUSE*, by James Patterson
4. Apr. 19, *MAYHEM IN MYRTLE BEACH*, by T. Lynn Ocean
5. May 17, *SECRET OF A CHARMED LIFE*, by Susan Meissner
6. June, No meeting in June for summer
7. July, No meeting in July for summer
8. Aug., No meeting in Aug. for summer
9. Sept. 20, *THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB*, by David Lagercranz
10. Oct. 18, *THE GOLDFINCH*, by Donna Tartt
11. Nov. 15, Open for discussion



Contributed by Nancy Lacey

Card Games at Seaside

Men's Poker Club

On the same evening that our traveling golf league plays, we play very easy and fun poker at the Amenity Center. We start at 7:00 and play for two or three hours. Please keep an eye out for the notices that will be emailed at least one day before, and come on down for some good fun! Please call Gary Kumerfield at **(843) 280-9755** if you have any questions.

Contributed by Gary Kumerfield

Couples Bridge

Couples Bridge is held at 7 PM every other Wednesday evening at the Amenities Center. **NOTE:** Bridge Players wanted!!! Please know that you do not have to be an expert Bridge player to join. We do a lot of snacking, laughing, and some not-very-serious bridge playing. If you have questions, there is always someone to help.



To join our group, please contact Miriam Compliment at mcompliment@sc.rr.com or phone **(843) 249-7480**.



Contributed by Miriam Compliment

Ladies Bridge

Every Monday afternoon from 1:30-4:30, the ladies play bridge at the Amenity Center. Ladies that enjoy bridge can contact Judy at **(843) 280-9755**, or by email at jp@jayscompany.com if you would like to be either a regular player or a substitute.

Contributed by Judy Kumerfield

Ladies Mah-Jongg



Every Thursday all ladies are welcome to play Mah-Jongg at the Amenity Center. We go to a local restaurant at 11:30 AM, except on the first Thursday of the month. That day we have a pot luck lunch. Play usually begins at 1:00 PM and finishes at about 4:30 PM. Please call Georgiann at **(843) 280-0189** if you are interested in playing or want more information.

Contributed by Georgiann George

Dine Out by Carol Adams

Happy 2016! As you are reading this, we hope that you joined us for January's Dine Out at Benjamin's on January 25th. What a great place to choose what you want for dinner and enjoy your Seaside neighbors!

Remember that while Dine Out usually starts at 6:30, you probably want to arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time. Our group has been at least 40 for most of the Dine Outs since September (our sixth year), so you have seen what it is like when you walk in at 6:30 to find two or four places. We all like to mingle and catch up with everyone who is attending, so if you can arrive before that 6:30 start time, you have time to circulate. Seating has been somewhat chaotic as we have grown in participation, but thankfully the group has been considerate of all in attendance.

This month we hope too that ALL of our new neighbors in 2015 and 2016 will join us as well as those who have decided instead of being part-time that this is the perfect place to be full-time. If you have not been to Dine Out, you want to try this activity to have a chance to meet more of those in the community. Too often we only get to know those on our street or in our particular activities, but Dine Out gives us a chance to get out of our "box" and sit with those from other parts of the community, with those whom we have not seen in some time, or with those we have never met before this event. Do come and join us!!



If you are filling in your social calendar, remember to reserve the fourth Sunday and Monday in each month for Dine Out. Because of other events and restaurants' schedules, we usually have to do more Mondays, but we do try to alternate to accommodate neighbors' preferences. You will always receive a specific monthly flier about Dine Out.

Although we usually do not have Dine Out in the summer, some have suggested that we might try a Happy Hour during each month. Let us know what you think about this idea. You might have a particular Happy Hour location in mind too.

Once again we will be choosing most of our Dine Outs from the Ritz Book since it is the coupon book that most in Seaside purchased. If you did not purchase a Ritz Book, you might want to do so as two Dine Outs usually put you in the profit zone.

Miriam Compliment and I (and Mimi Ragan, our backup helper) try not to duplicate restaurants as much as possible, so we do appreciate your suggestions for new restaurants. (Yes, after six years, we might go back to old favorites of the group a couple of times in the year as some are definitely owed our business again.) With so many restaurants on the Grand Strand though, we have an advantage of offering you many new dining experiences we hope. Come join the fun!

Contributed by Carol H. Adams

(843) 267-0730

carolhadams@gmail.com

Sunshine Team Update

As I looked back at some of the articles that I have written previously, I thought how repetitious most of the Sunshine Team articles are because I am usually reminding you of what the Sunshine Team does and who its members are. Once again though I feel the need to share this information as we begin a new year with HOA Board members and several new neighbors. Also, in recent discussions some “seasoned” residents have requested that once again everyone know exactly what the team does and who they are. If you know, you can double check me or skip the rest of this article. If you would like to know more, read on and save this article for future reference about the Sunshine Team.

Historically let me share that Jeff and I suggested the need for the Sunshine Team to Drew Gillespie over four years ago to be sure that new residents were welcomed initially as they moved into the neighborhood and to improve communication about both good and not-so-good news in all areas of the neighborhood. As Seaside had grown, we had found that like any neighborhood, some knew, and some were finding out after the fact. All of you know what happens when you volunteer; you get the job, so the Sunshine Team started.

Most of you probably first met at least one of your Sunshine Team members when that person welcomed you to Seaside Plantation. That



welcome does not occur until your settlement papers have been sent to the management company. Waccamaw then forwards your name and new address to the Seaside HOA, and then I receive that information. I then will send the new resident information to the appropriate Sunshine Team members. One of those members will follow up with a welcome. Of course, for many of you that welcome might have seemed good or bad, depending on what you were doing at the time. If you were brand new to the area, that friendly face might have brought more “sunshine” than to some of our more recent new residents who all seem to have lived in the area for years and years. Yet if you are trying to unpack and someone appears with a welcome and lots of neighborhood information, you just might be on “moving overload” and did not need all that information right then. Please remember that the Sunshine Team members are there for you whenever and wherever. They are your reference points for information as you need it. While they might provide you with information as they greet you that you feel like then is useless, remember to come back to your Sunshine Team members when you have questions about that information.

In addition to welcoming new residents, the Sunshine Team tries to keep you informed about neighbors’ good and not-so-good news. The structure of the Sunshine Team is basically that I

serve as the facilitator for the team. Joining me on the team are usually two representatives from each street; one of those two is typically the one who is responsible for emails that are sent to residents on the respective street. If a neighbor does not have email, then the Sunshine person tries to distribute the information in some other way (phone call, message in mailbox, or personal contact). Of course, some of our residents choose not to share emails and live out of state, so we do not mail to them or to those who own lots. Two representatives on each street allow for their vacations, work, company, ill, or other personal needs. All function as a **team**.

We learn of something for the Sunshine Team from a resident or a Sunshine Team member, and I begin the communication process. If the information already has been approved for distribution, then I will share it with the Sunshine Team members, and they in turn continue the process on their respective streets. If we do not know if the information can be shared, I will contact the neighbor or family first before we continue the process. You can ask for the information to be shared with all of Seaside or perhaps only your street. Sometimes the neighbor or family does not want that information shared for whatever reason. We always honor those requests; this is why the Sunshine Team does not publicize a situation.

Like you, we feel terrible when we learn about a situation after the fact and wish that someone had told us. Please, please, please keep in touch with your street's Sunshine Team member when you have a need or a reason to celebrate or contact me. Tell us about others on your street too. We do respect all requests for privacy, but the Sunshine Team is here for you whenever the need might occur. We welcome new residents, provide information, and share the good news that you might be shy about sharing. Never feel that you are bothering us! Some situations are long-term, so as we do not want to intrude or pester anyone, please email, call, or contact us in any way that is convenient for you. The Sunshine Team members simply serve as initial friends on your respective

streets.

Most of all, all of us need to thank the Sunshine Team for volunteering their time (Some have volunteered for over four years.) They are an awesome team who are representative of this caring community and work very hard to keep us all informed. They try to pass information on to you within 24 hours although that is not always possible. As residents, you too are the initial part of the team, starting the communication process.

If you need to contact your street's representative, I have included the names of the representatives and the member's email who most frequently sends out notices for your street:

- **HILLSIDE and 8th AVE:** Edna Klutz (seaside7031@aol.com)
- **OCEAN POINTE COURT:** Barbara Frank and Mimi Ragan (weragans@sc.rr.com)
- **SEA ISLAND WAY:** Nancy Fleischer, Jeanne Hendrix (thewaytogo@aol.com) and Cathy Oakley
- **SEAFARER WAY:** Pat Granger and Susan Pastroff (spastroff@gmail.com)
- **SEA VISTA LANE:** Polly Shoffner (pshoffner@sc.rr.com)
- **COMPASS POINTE:** Eloise Clapp and Beverly Hill (beverlychill@gmail.com)
- **EAST COAST LANE:** Susan Kime and Betty Kranstuber (bkranstuber@yahoo.com)
- **TRADEWIND COURT:** Carol Adams (carolhadams@gmail.com) and Marie McGibben

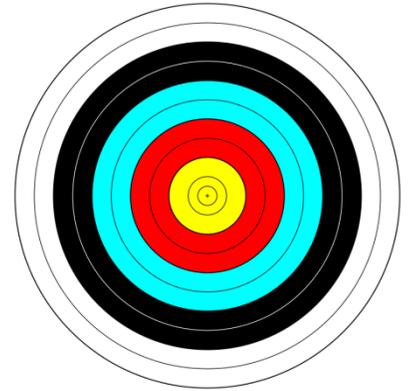
If for some reason you do not know your Sunshine Team members, please introduce yourself and email them your contact information unless you do not wish to be notified of Sunshine situations in Seaside. Sunshine Days!

Contributed by Carol Adams
(843) 267-0730
carolhadams@gmail.com

Seaside Target Shooting Club

All Seaside residents are welcome to join this new club that involves target practice at The Low Country Preserve, about 25 minutes from here. Skeet and Trap shooting is \$8.00 per round, plus ammo. Pistol practice costs \$5.00 daily. Nine folks have already indicated interest to Tim, so this new sport should be an active event here in Seaside. We think the best time to go out to the Preserve may be Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays, around mid-morning. Please call Tim at **(978) 729-4683** for more information.

Contributed by Tim Jackson



Tips from the Vineyard

The much maligned Merlot is back! Well, it never really left, especially in countries like France where it is considered on par with Cabernet Sauvignon. After taking the brunt of bad publicity from the 2004 movie, *Sideways*, where two guys swore to never drink Merlot again, it has fought its way back into the hearts, heads, and palates of wine drinkers. As a matter of fact, Napa and Columbia Valley produce amazing Merlot that, in many cases, exceeds Cabernet. It is without a doubt one of the world's greatest varietals and still commands some of the highest prices.



However, the good news is it's also a great value wine—particularly when ordered out at a restaurant. It has many of the characteristics of Cabs—black cherry and mocha flavors, licorice and spice—which is why it is frequently blended with Cabernet. Merlot wine list prices typically are 20 to even 50% less than Cabs. When dining out at an upscale steakhouse and the list is presented, I always look at the Merlot varietal listings first.

Many of the best Cab producers also bottle a Merlot which receives all the love, care, and capability from the same winemaker. Also, a Merlot can be drunk much younger, as the tannins are

softer. There's nothing worse than paying top dollar for, say, a 2012 Cab at a restaurant when it isn't yet ready for drinking, hasn't met its potential, and yet you are paying top dollar. That's the other great detail about Merlot, particularly American grown and bottled Merlot, in that the majority of them are ready to drink at the current release/vintage date. This means you may pop and pour as soon as you buy them to drink at home or out on the town at dinner. When the wines are young, Merlot just seems friendlier and easier to drink.

Still not convinced? One of the top wines, (some say THE top wine) released in the world is a wine from Petrus. Petrus is a Bordeaux wine estate located in the Pomerol appellation near its eastern border to Saint-Émilion. It's a small estate of just 28 acres and it produces a limited production red wine made entirely from Merlot grapes. The current 2014 vintage release price for this wonderful wine is a whopping \$1,825.00... PER BOTTLE! So...if a friend turns his nose up at you for drinking “Merlot”, you now have the ammunition to disarm them... Cheers!

Contributed by Mike Baker

New Neighbors

There are no new additions this quarter to our current roster of wonderful neighbors!



Geek Speak—Gray Geeks

In talking to many of you, sometimes over adult beverages, I frequently hear something like this, “I am not good with computers and all these fancy devices”. But statistics disagree. It may surprise you (as it did me) that in a recent article in the Wall Street Journal, the highest usage of smart phones is in the 55 and older age group. Note: these were smart phones, not simply cell phones. And the difference was significant—over ten percentage points. Also, older folks were only slightly behind younger age groups in the use of social media (probably grandparents following grandchildren—but this counts as usage). Ownership of desk top computers was higher in the older group as well. We are also rapidly closing in on younger groups in the use of tablet devices.

We, the Baby Boomer generation, have significantly challenged and changed every prior generational culture as we age. We are changing things because of the size of our group, improved health, and education over past generations. Similar to our parents, someday we expect to face giving up our cars and our independence when we can no longer drive safely. Not true; we are the target generation for driver-less cars. Imagine getting into your driver-less car and telling the car to go to the market or doctor’s office. Driver-less cars are projected to reduce traffic accidents by more than 50%. Certainly, this is still at least five years away, and probably ten years for general use. But these cars will be available before most of us are unable to drive. In addition, more and more sensors are being connected to our smart phones that will manage our health and reduce routine doctor visits.

Are you a Gray Geek? Try this test I developed.

- ✓ You may be a geek if you use your smart phone for more than simple calling, like checking the weather.
- ✓ You may be a geek if you know that 'tablet' is not a small French table.
- ✓ You may be a geek if you know that 'gigabyte' is not an injury from a giga-monster.
- ✓ You may be a geek if you take cute pictures on your phone and send them to friends and relatives.
- ✓ You may be a geek if you regularly forward funny or strange emails (two extra obnoxious geek points if they complain).
- ✓ You may be a geek if you know the 'world wide web' is not a global infestation of spiders.
- ✓ You may be a geek if you have ever spoken to your phone.
- ✓ You may be a geek if you know that the term 'App' is not short for something you serve before dinner.
- ✓ You may be a geek if you ever use the word 'Google' as a verb.
- ✓ You may be a geek if you have more than two 'passwords'.
- ✓ You may be a geek if you know that Wi-Fi is not an upgraded Hi-Fi stereo.
- ✓ You may be a geek if you know that 'Skype' is not a sound a dog makes when you step on their tail.
- ✓ You may be a geek if you know that 'log in' has nothing to do with your fireplace.
- ✓ You may be a geek if you know that 'upgrading your operating system' is not about finding a better surgical hospital.



Did you get ten correct?

Most of your parents would not pass, but most of you did. Be proud, come out of the geek closet, and wrap some tape around the nose bridge of your glasses. You are the Gray Geeks!

Contributed by Frank Fleischer

Editor's Invitation

Everyone is interesting and has some adventures, hobbies, or wisdom to share. Please consider writing an article for our newsletter. We would love to get a few of your favorite recipes to share, too! Please note that our editorial policy precludes commercial or political articles. Also, we are not the editorial or opinion page of the newspaper. Our newsletter is focused solely on articles that are of general interest to our community.

This issue is a collaborative effort between many volunteers. A big THANK YOU to everyone! Going forward, the editorial baton is being passed from Frank Fleischer to Linnie Russo. Please send your articles or recipes to Linnie at LWRusso@comcast.net. Thank you!

Editor, Frank Fleischer

Incoming Editor, Linnie Russo



Committee Alignments

With Responsible Leaders, January 2016

Safety, Security and Technology Committee

Committee Members:

Chair, Frank Fleischer: (843) 249-7092, FrankFSeaside@gmail.com

Jim Hill

Bob and Carolyn Query

Jeanne and Eric Hendrix

Responsibilities:

Parking on Streets and Clubhouse

Gate Access

Cameras and Video

Community Watch and Awareness

Voice and Data Lines

Wi-Fi

Security Systems at Clubhouse

Fire System at Clubhouse

Audio/Visual Equipment at Clubhouse

Public Works Committee

Committee Members:

Chair, Mike Baker: (843) 427-7857, mbakerssboard@gmail.com

Fred George

Phil Ahlschlager

Responsibilities:

Street and Entrance Signage

Roads

Sidewalks, Curbs and Gutters

Ponds and Associated Wells

Pond Dredging

Wildlife

Association Lighting

Bulkhead and Rip Rap

Vacant Lot Maintenance

Amenity Center Committee

Committee Members:

Chair, Pete Sansone: (843) 249-1716, petersansone87@ptd.net

Fred George

Don Robertson

Responsibilities:

Club House (interior and exterior maintenance)

Club House Event Usage

Pool and Spa

Out Building Maintenance (pool baths and pump room)

Main Gate Fountain

Amenity Fountain

Architectural Review Board (ARB) Committee

Committee Members:

Chair, Phil Ahlschlager: (252) 714-9238, pcaboard@yahoo.com

Mike Baker

Larry Shoffner

Skip Friz

Responsibilities:

All new PO (property owners) Project Construction

Property Owners Exterior Home Appearance

Realtor Assistance on Potential Sales

Non-Build Fines

Community Landscape and Holiday Decorations Committee

Committee Members:

Chair, Phil Ahlschlager: (252) 714-9238, pcaboard@yahoo.com

Gary Kumerfield

Nancy Revella

Nancy Fleischer

Jerry Russo

Rudy Passafiume

Trish White - Holiday Decorations

Responsibilities:

Common Areas

Amenity Center

Pool Area

Gates

Circles

Property Owners Landscape and Yard Appearance

Common Area Sprinklers and Pumps

Communication Committee

Committee Members:

Chair, Gary Kumerfield: (843) 280-9755, gfkumer@gmail.com

Mike Hicks (consultant)

Frank Fleischer

Lynn Russo - Newsletter

Responsibilities:

Community Email Distribution

Seaside Directory

Social Media (new effort)

Website updates

Social Committee

Committee Members:

Chair, Gary Kumerfield: (843) 280-9755, gfkumer@gmail.com

Lifestyle:

Jeri Friz

Miriam Compliment

Cathy Ahlschlager

Mike Hicks

Lynnie Russo

Responsibilities:

Committee will coordinate annual events including holidays and evaluate new events and activities.

Activities:

Ladies Mahjong & Other Games – Georgiann George

Ladies Bridge – Judy Kumerfield

Couple's Bridge – Miriam Compliment

Men's Golf League – Rex White & Gary Kumerfield

Men's Golf Traveling League – Jeff Adams & Larry Etzkorn

Men's Card Club – Gary Kumerfield

Book Club – Nancy Lacey

Thursday Social Happy Hours – Jeri & Skip Friz

Gun Club – Tim Jackson

Sunshine Team: Carol Adams – Lead

Team: *(Street Leaders)*

Eloise Clapp & Beverly Hill: Compass Point Drive

Susan Kime & Betty Kranstuber: East Coast Lane

Edna Klutz: Hillside Drive

Barbara Frank & Mimi Ragan: Ocean Pointe Court

Pat Granger & Susan Pastroff: Seafarer Way

Nancy Fleischer & Jeanne Hendrix: Sea Island Way

Betsy Brewer & Polly Shoffner: Sea Vista Lane

Carol Adams & Marie McKibben: Tradewinds Court