

President's message

A very wise person once said, "It is through cooperation, rather than conflict, that your greatest successes will be derived."

I have given that statement a great deal of thought this year, thinking about how I could use it to help the residents of Grand Haven.

Since the first issue of this newsletter, besides educating the community on the basics of CC&R's 101, we have tried to explain the duties of the Grand Haven Master Association (GHMA) and the Community Development District (CDD), and who is responsible for what. See the chart on page 2.

These are the two governing bodies within the gates of Grand Haven. The GHMA is responsible for all property owned by residents, while the CDD is responsible for all common ground, including the amenity centers, guard gates and streets.

Cooperation between the two boards results in good things happening and money saved for the residents of GH. One result of that cooperation resulted in the Firewise program. With Steve Davidson (of the CDD) as president of the Firewise board, me (of the GHMA) as vice president, and state forest ranger Timber Weller, the board created the Fire Mitigation Program for Grand Haven. The program resulted in the cutting back of much of the vegetation in the reserve areas behind homes, thus protecting them from possible wildfires. This program is currently entering its second phase.

The City of Palm Coast recognized the Grand Haven community for this effort, presenting us with a proclamation at a recent City Council meeting. See page 5.

I recently accompanied CDD members on a visit to Ocean Hammock, to learn what could be done in forming a master plan for landscaping in GH, saving water and maintenance time.

To learn more about this landscaping program, Steve and I attended a Green Industries Best Management Practices Program presented by the University of Florida. We recently

received our certificates, after successfully completing the final exam.

The CDD recently agreed to share its e-mail data base with the GHMA, allowing us to communicate with residents more efficiently. The GHMA is currently cooperating with the CDD in finding a storage area for a large shipment of coquina rock, which is to be used in the new, common area landscaping program. Buying in bulk will save money.

Cooperation can go a long way, when both parties are working toward the same goal, namely the good of the residents of Grand Haven!

Have a great summer!

Kenny O'Connor, President, GHMA



New waterfront park slated for August

A new park on the Intracoastal Waterway is scheduled to open in late August along the north border of Grand Haven. The park will be operated by Palm Coast's Parks and Recreation Department.

Waterfront Park will be a passive park with activity areas for picnicking, a playground, fishing pier with shaded area, and walking trails.



Park under construction, GH homes visible on left.

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GRAND HAVEN

PUBLIC ENTITY

PRIVATE ENTITY

COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT
CDD

GRAND HAVEN
MASTER ASSOCIATION
GHMA

SCOPE: Common property

SCOPE: Private property

RESPONSIBILITIES: Creation, financing & maintenance of community infrastructure

RESPONSIBILITIES: Implementation of Grand Haven and Association governing documents

- *Common grounds and landscaping
- *Ponds
- *Amenity Centers
- *Entrance gates and streets

- *Deed restriction enforcement
- *Architectural control

How are fees paid?

How are fees paid?

Owners are assessed through their annual property tax bill in the form of a non-ad valorem assessment.

Owners receive an annual assessment bill from the association in December for the following year.

Who to call

Who to call

Barry Kloptosky Operations Manager, for daily operations/maintenance of the common grounds, gates, streets and security questions or concerns
386-447-1888

Southern States Management Group, Inc.

Troy Railsback, Community Manager
Brandy Despang, Architectural Design Committee

Jessica Rodriquez, Gate Access Administrator
386-447-1888

386-446-6333

P.O. Box 354785
Palm Coast, Florida 32135

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)



- Q.** My house number is even. Does that mean I can only wash my car on Thursday?
- A.** Property owners are restricted to irrigating two days per week – Thursday and Sunday for even addresses and Wednesday and Saturday for odd addresses – between the hours of 2 a.m. and 8 a.m. Casual water use, such as car washing, using a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle, is allowed at any time.
- Q.** Since we are into the rainy season is it ok to turn off my irrigation system?
- A.** You sure can, but your lawn will probably die, which will get you a nastygram from the community manager. St. Augustine grass needs at least two inches of water per week to remain healthy. With the sandy soil in this area, the three inches of rain last week does not help this week. The grass needs water every three to four days.
- Q.** Florida garages are too small, there is no basement and the attic is incredibly hot. So I am going to get one of those PODS in order to have some storage space. I'll paint it to match my house.
- A.** Not a good idea. The only paint acceptable would be invisible paint. Besides violating the CC&Rs and the ADC guidelines, it would violate Palm Coast codes. PODS can only be parked temporarily (not to exceed seven days) in a resident's driveway and only once per year.
- Q.** What happen to the plastic clothes basket that was rigged up last year for the fallen Osprey nest?
- A.** The Ospreys returned, built a regulation nest and are now raising two youngsters. The plastic nest was removed.



Osprey nest all naturel

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How to zap those pesky mosquitoes

Are you eaten alive by mosquitoes when you step outside your house? Have you canceled a picnic because the mosquitoes were so bad you could not get out of your car? Were you recently chased off the golf course or tennis court by a bloodthirsty band of mosquitoes? Probably not. This does not happen, in part, thanks to the East Flagler Mosquito Control District (EFMCD).

The EFMCD was created by the Flagler County Board of Commissioners in July 1952, following a special election in which 128 voters cast ballots in favor of the creation of the EFMCD and 11 were opposed. Its budget in 1952 was \$2,350.

The mission of the East Flagler Mosquito Control District is the suppression of mosquito species that may cause illness or significant discomfort, within a specific control area and with minimal environmental impact. This is accomplished by identifying important species and linking its population numbers to an acceptable threshold. Nuisance populations below the threshold are tolerated unless mosquito-linked illnesses are involved.

Initially, the district's control efforts were insecticide "fogs" consisting of a mixture of an insecticide and fuel oil. Fogs provided temporary relief from the overwhelming salt marsh mosquito populations that plague coastal residents.



As the district grew, emphasis turned to the salt marsh breeding sites. A dragline was purchased, and drainage efforts were directed at breaking the salt marsh mosquitoes' life cycle by draining its nursery areas. Hundreds of acres were drained through the early 1960s – a controversial task since there was widespread acceptance of the wetlands as a valued resource and there were environmental regulations restricting ditching activities.

The district has grown to service more than 85,000 residents. Its annual budget is approximately \$1.7 million, and its control methods, while similar to the methods used in the 1950s, have been refined. Specific mosquito species are now targeted rather than mosquitoes in general. Wetland mosquito projects are more sophisticated, more specific,

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FAQs

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- Q.** Does the city pick up trash on holidays?
- A.** There is no pickup on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Since Thanksgiving falls on a Thursday, Grand Haven's regular day for trash and recycling, pickup will be on Friday.
- Q.** My gate fob doesn't work very well when I am leaving Grand Haven. It works fine when I am entering but doesn't open the exit gate until I get real close. Any ideas?
- A.** We hate to be the bearer of bad tidings but the gate fobs do not open the exit gates. They only open the entrance gates. Exit gates open when they sense the metal in your car. By pressing the fob when you are exiting you are probably opening the entrance gate. Since the entrance gate only closes when it senses metal going by, it will remain open until a car enters. If you have any other appliances that don't work, we make house calls for an outrageous fee.
- Q.** My lawn guy recently trimmed my bushes. When I asked him what he does with the trimmings, he told me it was too far to haul them since they closed the trash dump on Old Kings Rd, so he dumps them in a wooded area in Grand Haven. That doesn't seem right.
- A.** It is illegal, immoral and fattening – not to mention a fire hazard. Worse, since he is working for you, you are responsible. Tell him to make the trip to an authorized dumpsite.
- Q.** My not-so-bright cousin Wilbert was swimming in the pond behind our house and bumped into a small alligator hiding in some algae. What happened to the project to control the algae?
- A.** For those cousins who came from the shallow end of the gene pool, tell them not to swim in the ponds – some alligators are not small. Algae are the least of your cousin's problems. But to answer the question, no one treatment method provided the "magic bullet" to prevent algae formation. The pond study has been suspended and the pond maintenance contractor, Aquatic Services, has been instructed to use a balanced approach, treating each pond on an individual basis.
- Q.** When I was walking on Waterside Parkway the other day, a person on a bicycle almost hit me. I did not hear him coming from behind me. Should he have let me know he was coming?

- A.** Yes, absolutely! Bikers should sound a horn or call out "Passing" when approaching a pedestrian. It is not only courteous, it is the law. The next issue of The Oak Tree will have a full article on bicycle safety and laws.

Mosquitoes

(Continued from page 3)

and receive significant review from regulatory agencies. Control products are short lived, biodegradable and in some cases mosquito specific. Only occasionally do nuisance mosquitoes cause discomfort to the point that outdoor activities are curtailed.

Today, mosquito control begins with daily population tracking. Trapping, biting counts and client service requests all provide information upon which control

decisions are based. Surveillance provides data about species composition, abundance and provides a historical perspective. The data will initiate the decision process for mosquito control action, but weather is also considered, along with public exposure and environmental sensitivity.



Residents who believe they may have an abundance of mosquitoes can call EFMCD at 445-4135. Since county residents already pay taxes to support this function, there is no charge for the service. The agency will have an inspector come to the property to determine if it is a site specific problem or a general area problem. If it is an area problem, the

agency will schedule control action for the area. If it is a site problem with standing water (a mosquito breeding ground), corrective action will be recommended.



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the National Firewise Communities/USA Program's goal is to promote community-wide participation in the use of technology, policy and practices that minimize the disastrous loss of life and property due to a wildfire; and

WHEREAS, the **Grand Haven Community**, in Palm Coast, has partnered with the Department of Forestry, as a conscientious group of neighbors helping neighbors, working together to complete the required elements for an action plan for residents to reduce home ignition potential and develop fire mitigation solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Haven Firewise Board walked the entire property and developed a map to identify properties for underbrush mowing due to vegetation sitting within thirty feet from adjoining homes; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Haven Firewise Board uncovered, cleaned, prepared and designated emergency gates located in their community as accessible emergency exits; and

WHEREAS, the **Grand Haven Community** in Palm Coast has completed the necessary requirements to achieve Firewise Communities/USA Recognition status from the National organization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, THAT the Palm Coast City Council congratulates the **Grand Haven Community** for becoming a

Firewise Communities/USA

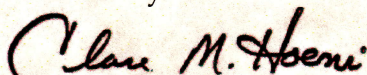
and thank all of the participating neighborhood residents for making safety, preparedness, and protection of life a priority in **Grand Haven**.

ADOPTED this 4th day of May 2010.

CITY OF PALM COAST, FLORIDA


Jon Netts, Mayor

Witnessed by:



Clare M. Hoeni, City Clerk



Grand Haven Women's Club aids many

The Grand Haven Women's Club raised more than \$1,400 from its recent book sale, only one of the many events sponsored by the group.

A member of the General Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, the Grand Haven club, founded in 2005, is a non-profit volunteer organization whose purpose is to promote and provide educational and charitable activities. The group donates time and money to more than 25 local, state, national and international charities.

For the 2009-2010 year, monetary donations exceeded \$7,200, while other donations included knitted hats and blankets for newborn babies, toys and children's books presented to the hospital emergency room, and gowns and attire for high school prom wear.

The book sale held in May at the Village Center sold paperbacks for \$.50 and hardcover books for \$1.00 each. Club members thanked the community for its support and urged residents to save books for next year's sale.

Membership in the Grand Haven Woman's Club is open to all Grand Haven women; current membership is more than 100. For more information about the Women's Club and its activities, contact club president Sally Nord, 445-7159 or past president Nancy Richards, 445-6246.

Waterfront Park

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There will be bathroom facilities, but no boat ramp.

The park will function as a trailhead to the trails running north along the Intracoastal via a bridge connection. A new trail from the park to Colbert Lane will allow access to Lehigh Trail to the south and Graham Swamp Trail to the north. Graham Swamp Trail is a 2.2 mile, 10-foot-wide coquina shell, multi-purpose path now under construction. The park and all trails are expected to open by the end of August.

The original Development of Regional Impact (DRI) for Grand Haven included two parks, one to the south of the complex and one to the north. Grand Haven developer LandMar subsequently donated the land where Flagler County's Herschel King Park was built to the south, and the land just north of Grand Haven, where the new City of Palm Coast's Waterfront Park is being built.

A question from the fire chief Fire season or hurricane season?

By Mike Beadle

For those new to our region, let me start by extending a warm and sunny welcome from the Palm Coast Fire Department.

As you begin to settle into your new surroundings, and for those of us who have lived here for some time, I would like to ask the question, is it fire season or hurricane season?

The answer is both. Fire season runs from January 1 through December 31 and hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30. As we know, some years are worse than others, for both wildfires and tropical disturbances.

With both seasons at our doorstep, the fire department wants to remind you that early preparation is the key. Plans should be made in advance for an early evacuation should it be necessary. Have a plan of where you will go and how to get there. Ensure that those documents and worldly possessions that you cherish are taken care of, either going with you or locked in a safe deposit box at your financial institution. In the event a tropical depression hurricane hits, are you prepared to spend days without electricity? Do you have enough food to last three or four days? Did you remember to buy water? Remember the Boy Scout motto: always be prepared, as we enter our "seasons."

Don't forget to pick up a copy of the city/county "Disaster Preparedness Guide" from your local fire station or at locations throughout Flagler County.

Editor's note: Mike Beadle has been a resident of Palm Coast for 23 years and has been the Palm Coast fire chief for the past 12 years.



Change as a fact of life

By Patrick Williams

By now the weather has turned to warmer days (some would say hot), and clear nights, allowing residents to get out of the house more, walk, bike, play tennis, golf, bocce, croquet and enjoy other Grand Haven activities. The past winter was not a usual Florida one; it was downright cold for this area. But that's a distant memory now. Weather is as unpredictable as life.

Change is something that occurs every day. Change is the one constant in a life that people often try hard to avoid. Sometimes the change one experiences is something one chooses - retirement, selling a company, getting married, eating, and exercising. Sometimes, however, one experiences unchosen change...a divorce, a lost job, the death of a loved one, illness or injury.

And yet, just like spring often reminds one of rebirth and renewal, even when facing change that was not chosen...eventually, all change needs to be chosen. It is real, it is unavoidable and the choices that now face you are new. How you respond to your choices is what makes you evolve as a human being. The initial reaction to any unwanted or unchosen change is just that....an immediate reaction. The challenge is to see the various ways you could respond, which means to see the various choices that could be made, and then make one.

Quoting from Hugh Prather's book, *Notes to Myself*, "If everything were to turn out just like I would want it to, just like I would plan for it to, then I would never experience anything new; my life would be an endless repetition of stale successes. When I make a mistake I experience something unexpected.... when I have listened to my mistakes I have grown."

Enjoy the beautiful community of Grand Haven. Have new experiences....and welcome the experiences that were neither as expected nor planned.

Editor's Note: Dr. Patrick Williams, a resident of Grand Haven, is a psychologist, executive leadership coach, and founder of the Institute for Life Coach Training.

GHMA information

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

Help wanted

Job 1: Position on the GHMA board. There will be three positions open at the end of this year.

Qualifications: Ability to smile while being told you have not solved all the problems.

Job 2: Person needed to write articles for The Oak Tree.

Qualifications: Ability to write.

Contact Kenny O'Connor at koconnor12@cfl.rr.com or Ray Smith at raymondsmith@cfl.rr.com for submissions or more information.

Members of the GHMA board

President	Kendra O'Connor	446-3587	koconnor12@cfl.rr.com
Vice President	Roy Search	445-4519	rsearch@cfl.rr.com
Treasurer	Judy Hackstaff	447-7306	jhackstaff@cfl.rr.com
Director	Gene D'Iorio	446-2995	gdiorio@aol.com
Director	Ray Smith	445-3666	raymondsmith@cfl.rr.com

2010 GHMA meeting schedule:

Board meetings are scheduled on Fridays at 2 p.m. in the Creekside Amenity Center. All residents are welcome to attend. Upcoming 2010 meeting dates:

August 20
October 22
November 19

The ADC meets at 9 a.m. at the Creekside Amenities Center on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

The Oak Tree staff

Kenny O'Connor, President, GHMA

Ray Smith, writer/editor

Troy Railsback, Production manager



GHMA NEWSLETTER
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Community Development District (386) 447-1888
LandMar Group (386) 446-6428
Grand Haven guard gate (386) 445-2376
Village Center office (386) 447-0192
Village Center café (386) 447-0239
Grand Haven Golf Club pro shop & tee times (386) 445-2327
Grand Haven Golf Club restaurant (386) 445-1027

Palm Coast City Hall (386) 986-3700
Flagler County property appraiser (386) 313-4150

