



The Oak Tree

The President's Message

Since this will be the last edition of the Oak Tree in 2014, I thought that it would be most appropriate to review the significant actions of your Board during the past year and update our residents in regard to issues of general interest.

One of the major tasks facing the Board during the past year was the selection of a management company to serve the Grand Haven residents and the selection of landscaping contractors to service the various Private Lawn Maintenance (PLM) Villages throughout our community. The new contracts for both the Management Company and PLM contractors will begin on January 1, 2015 and terminate on December 31, 2017.

Culminating a fairly lengthy process which involved consideration of four prospective management companies, the Board selected Southern States Management Group to continue to serve in this capacity. As we move forward the Board is committed to refining a number of processes currently in place and continuing to focus on procedures to ensure equity in the CC&R compliance process.

Following a review of the results of the most recent PLM Survey, an on-site visit by the PLM Committee and input from our Property Manager, the Board approved the landscaping contractors that will service each of the PLM Villages. Prior to the end of November, the residents of each PLM Village will be notified of such by mail.

The Problematic Properties Committee was initiated to consistently review and recommend to the Board actions to be taken in regard to properties throughout Grand Haven that had significant delinquent assessments, fines and associated fees. As a result of those recommendations and resulting actions, the Board has in the past eighteen months, recovered over \$151,000. In addition, the Board has successfully resolved two pre-trial mediations and has been involved in significantly reducing the number of foreclosed properties in our community. In part, as a result of these collection efforts, the Board voted to reduce the annual assessment for fiscal year 2015 to \$115.

I know that a number of residents have questions and concerns regarding the completion of construction of phase two of the condominiums adjacent to the Clubhouse (Vista Par Condominiums). Early this past summer, a presentation was made at a CDD meeting by Mr. Frank Sockman, the realtor associated with this project. At that time, it was anticipated that construction would resume by late summer of 2014 and a sales office would be opened in the fall. This information was disseminated to the residents in an earlier edition of the Oak Tree. In



GHMA Meeting Schedule

The Board of Directors of the Grand Haven Master Association (GHMA) meets on the 3rd Friday of every month (unless otherwise noted.) All residents are welcome to attend.

When: 2 PM, Friday, November 21
2 PM, Friday, December 19

Where: Creekside Amenities Center
2 North Village Parkway

GHMA Annual Meeting, 5 PM, Thursday,
January 15, 2015, Grand Haven Room

GHMA Board Members

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The Oak Tree

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The Oak Tree is always looking for ideas and topics for future issues., especially those that would be of interest to Grand Haven residents—Grand Haven activities, clubs, happenings, sporting events, resident volunteer activities and opportunities. Please contact Nancy Carlton at ncarlton096@gmail.com with your suggestions.

President's Message...continued

response to a recent request for updated information, we have been informed that it is anticipated final permitting will be granted in November and construction of three model units, garages and the exteriors of both buildings will begin shortly thereafter. Although these are projected timelines which are subject to many variables, we will hopefully see the initiation of construction in the not too distant future. The Board will convey any additional information as it becomes available.

Once again, the Board truly appreciates the on-going cooperation and support it receives from our residents. We are required to make a number of decisions and take stands on various issues on a regular basis. Although not everyone may agree with all of those decisions, our primary motivation and goals are to best serve the needs of the residents we represent and the Grand Haven community.

The members of the GHMA Board wish you and yours a happy holiday season and a most enjoyable and healthy New Year.

*Dr. Robert Jay Carlton, President
Grand Haven Master Association*

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Web access to your Grand Haven Master Association, Inc. assessment account is now available. If you haven't already, please give it a try as it is a great resource for everything GHMA related to your property. With this online access you are able to:

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

To login to your account please visit www.grandhavenmhoa.com and click the "Resident Login" link in the top left of the page. Correspondence was sent in July 2014 providing your Account Number and Password. If you misplaced and/or do not have your Account Number and/or Password, please contact SSMG ([386-446-6333](tel:386-446-6333)) for access.

Keep a look out for your 2015 Annual Assessment coupon book. They will be mailed in November and should be received by December 1st. Payment is due January 1, 2015. The GHMA Annual Assessment funds the enforcement of community Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs), facilitating the Architectural Design Committee (ADC) review process, management, accounting services, legal fees, insurance, newsletter/communications and all other operating costs of the Association, including periodic maintenance of foreclosed/deserted properties. The 2015 Annual Assessment is \$115.

Private Lawn Maintenance (PLM), Crossings and River Club Village assessment coupon books will also be mailed in November and should be received by December 1st. Each Village's respective 2015 monthly assessment is due the first of each month starting January 1, 2015.

Watch for information on the upcoming GHMA Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Election. There will be three (3) vacancies to fill. Details on how to submit a candidate sheet to run and voting procedures will be sent in November and December.

If you have questions about any of these items, please contact Troy Railsback at [386-446-6333](tel:386-446-6333).

The Big Red Box is Coming!!

Each year, the Village Center is a collection point for Toys, Bikes, Clothes, Games, Gift Certificates or monetary donations made payable to "Project Share" to provide holiday gifts to many of the less fortunate children in our area. Donations go to children newborns to 18 years of age.

The Big Red Box will arrive at the Village Center on November 21 and will be here through December 12. This is one of many opportunities local residents will have to support the needy in our community. Thank you for your generosity.



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Tis The Season—Holiday Home Tour

The Third Annual Grand Haven Holiday Home Tour will take place on Tuesday, December 9th, from 5:45 PM ~ 8:00 PM. There will be 4 homes to tour, each with different holiday decorating themes. Tickets will be on sale at the Village Center Office beginning on November 17th. The ticket cost is \$5.00, and all proceeds from ticket sales will benefit needy families of Flagler County through Project Share, a division of the Rotary Club of Flagler Beach.



Special thanks to the Host Home-owners who have agreed to open their homes for this wonderful event. Thanks also to all who will participate in this event to make it a success.

FLAGLER FREE CLINIC

Do you know the Flagler County Free Clinic? It is a volunteer-run, donor-supported facility that provides no-cost medical care for Flagler County residents without medical insurance.

The clinic was founded 10 years ago as the inspiration of Faith Coleman, a nurse who was diagnosed with cancer at a time when she was uninsured. Experiencing the hardship of accessing quality care without insurance motivated Faith to develop a program for the underserved in our community.

The clinic started out small, seeing 10 patients during limited clinic hours. Fast-forward a decade and the clinic now holds six clinics a month, seeing 2,000 patients a year. While the clinic has made great strides, there is still much to do to meet the need in our community for health care. As we prepare for our 10th anniversary, we are looking toward the future.

“We have ambitious plans to broaden our range of services to the uninsured population of our county,” said Dr. Stephen Bickel. “We will be adding a dental clinic, expanding our women’s health clinic, and providing additional orthopedic services. We are very excited about our future.”

If you would like to help the Flagler Free Clinic, here are ways that you can join some of your Grand Haven neighbors and get involved:

- Volunteer. The clinic is located at 703 E. Moody Blvd. in Bunnell. Applications can be submitted through our website, www.flaglercountyfreeclinic.org.
- Donate. Donations are accepted through the website.
- Join the new Events Committee. They need your energy and ideas! Email Elizabeth Robinson at elizabethfcfc@cfl.rr.com
- Like their new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/flaglercountyfreeclinic, and be part of their clinic community.
- Attend their upcoming fundraiser, “How Far We’ve Come!” celebrating the clinic’s 10-year anniversary! It’s Dec. 3rd, from 6-8 p.m. at ChopHouse 101 in the European Village in Palm Coast. Enjoy a glass of wine or beer and delicious appetizers in an elegant setting. Admission \$15. For info, call 386-237-7690.

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SECURITY AT GRAND HAVEN - A COOPERATIVE, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

At a recent Grand Haven CDD Board of Supervisors Meeting, a presentation was made by Sheriff Jim Manfre, Under Sheriff Rick Staly and Community Outreach Division Sgt. Mike Lutz. The following chart was made available for general discussion about the safety and security in Grand Haven. This exhibits the responsibility of each of our entities and the need to cooperate and share that responsibility to have a safe, secure Grand Haven.

Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) - policing powers over public (common) and private (residences)
 public (common) areas: COP patrols, Community Outreach / NW Liaison
 private (residences) : STAR Program, COP patrols, Community Outreach/ NW Liaison
 Women's Self-Defense Training _____ +

GH Community Development District (GHCCD) - by Florida Statute, no policing powers
 authority over public (common) areas only
 Access Control : GADs, SAACs, Interactive Real Time Master Resident and Vehicle Database. _____ +

Grand Haven Master Association (GHMA) - by Florida Statute, has no policing powers
 has authority over private (residences) only
 Administers CC&Rs, PLM contracts, ADC, Fine Committee _____ +

RESIDENTS - Exercise reasonable preventive measures - Lock dwelling, vehicle doors, observe and report suspicious activity to FCSO, GHNW, volunteer for GHNW
 "Harden" private residences - FCSO STAR Program (Free) _____ +

GH Neighborhood Watch (GHNW) - NGO (Non-Governmental) Volunteer Organization
 no policing power, no direct organizational relationship to GHCCD or GHMA
 aides in the collective "eyes and ears" of the community
 works with FCSO Community Outreach Liaison _____ =
Maximum Achievable State of Security

For those who may not be aware, Grand Haven was marketed as: "A gated private club community....."
 In reality, Grand Haven is a CDD, a unit of PUBLIC Special Purpose Government: the roads and sidewalks (Wild Oaks) are owned by the CDD, a public entity, which cannot exclude public entry and passage.
 The "gated" in the marketing slogan refers to the limited powers granted to the CDD for " Access Control".
 The "private" in the marketing slogan refers to the Escalante Golf Course property only, not the common areas of the District.

THE STAR PROGRAM

The Flagler County COPs (Citizens on Patrol) offers a free security evaluation as to methods to enhance security within and around your home. These methods are very effective with often minimal expense to the homeowner. This program is known as STAR. To set up a STAR appointment, please call the Palm Coast Precinct of the Flagler County Sheriff's Office at 386-586-2621. This will also be discussed by representatives of the Sheriff's office at the Neighborhood Watch meeting on Monday, November 10, 6-8 PM in the Grand Haven Room.

*Submitted by: Dr. Steve Davidson, Chairman
 GH CDD Board of Supervisors*

ADC CORNER

What do you do when you want to cut down a tree in your yard?

The best answer to that question is don't cut it down. Over the years if you have lived here for a while, you have watched the trees mature all along the streets and yards of Grand Haven. The Live Oak tree is our signature tree. It's on our signs at the entrances and the Village Center. Its beautiful canopy runs the full length of Waterside Parkway. And, it's the name of this newsletter. Grand Haven is all about trees. I bet if someone asked you what brought you to Grand Haven, besides all of the great amenities and the beautiful homes, somewhere in that answer would be the beautiful trees.

But, with maturing trees come problems. The Live Oak tree has a large sprawling and sometimes invasive root system that can create challenges for homeowners. The tall palms and pines are difficult to prune and blow in the wind as if they will fall. Grand Haven has many other trees within its boundaries and I am sure you can come up with concerns about these trees as well. However, if they are healthy, don't cut them down.

Over the past year or so, the ADC has seen many requests for tree removal. Because of these increased requests, the ADC, along with the Grand Haven Master Association's input and approval, came up with an addendum to the ADC Standards called the "Standards Position Statement". This document has everything you need to know if you are considering cutting down a tree. It can be found on the Grand Haven website at <http://grandhavenmhoa.com>, or you may contact Southern States Management Group, Inc., at 386-446-6333.

Please check with the ADC before you cut down a tree.

Your Architectural Design Committee Team



Submitted by: Tom Byrne, ADC Chair

National Night Out



National Night Out is a community-police awareness-raising event in the United States, held the first Tuesday of August.
First occurred: Aug 07, 1984

On August 5th, Grand Haven's Neighborhood Watch, in conjunction with Flagler County Sheriff's office, hosted our first National Night Out event.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of some villages, Rivers Edge, South Lake, and the Reserve, the event was a success! Residents turned their outside lights on and congregated in the streets. It was a great opportunity for residents, old and new, to meet and have fun, while taking back the night.



Rivers Edge



Southlake

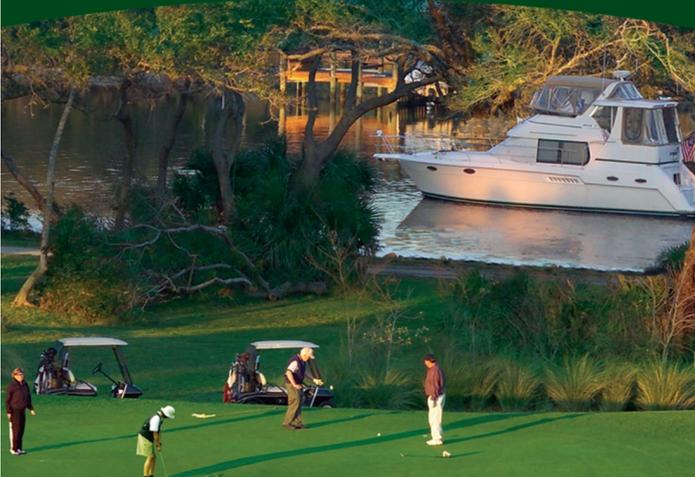


The Reserve

Let's continue to make Grand Haven grand, at our next Neighborhood Watch meeting, Monday, November 10, 6-8 PM

The Sheriff's office, will discuss a free program, STAR, that provides low cost tips for safeguarding your home. There will be signup sheets for a free home safety evaluation. **Don't miss out.**

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SUPPORTING OUR SOLDIERS IN AFGHANISTAN

You will notice as you read through this issue of the Oak Tree that there are many opportunities to get involved in the community and help those in need in our community. However, as the holidays approach, no group deserves our thanks and support more than the United States armed forces serving on the front lines to protect our freedoms.

Once again for the third year, the **Grand Haven Realty** team is rallying support from Grand Haven and Palm Coast residents in a holiday drive to collect donations of food and other essentials for the U.S. Troops in Afghanistan. Soldiers in the field are always in need of many things beyond the basic supplies and it's easy for everyone to throw an extra item in their cart while shopping. Even the smallest donation will be received with great appreciation by a soldier serving half way around the world.

If you would like to participate this year, please bring your unwrapped items (in order to pass through customs) to the **Grand Haven Realty** office, 7 Sandpiper Court, just inside the Main Gate, between December 1 and 6. The Realty team will package and make all necessary postal arrangements, including the required customs forms, and pay all the fees and postage. The following is a list of items needed by our soldiers:

Phone Cards, playing cards, candy, trail mix, beef jerky, nuts, cookies, crackers, peanut butter, Crystal Lite (water flavors). No books, please.

Everything must be sent via international mail, so it is suggested to keep donations to smaller sized items. For more information, call the Grand Haven Realty office at 386-447-0800.

Volunteers are needed to pack items for shipment. Call Patsy Moden at 447-0800 if you would like to volunteer.



See Ya Later, Alligator!

The name comes from “el largato” Spanish word for lizard. We know they frequent our lakes and ponds, which is hardly surprising when 1.25 million inhabit Florida lakes, marshes, wetlands, rivers and swamps.

It takes ten to fifteen years for an alligator to reach seven feet and reach maturity. Basking in the sun is essential for raising body temperature and creating energy necessary for mating. To attract females, males bellow loudly and the loudest bellow grabs the girls attention. Courting begins in April but a serious encounter will not occur until May or June. After which the male takes off, leaving the female to build the nest, lay eggs and raise the twenty-four young who survive incubation to hatch in mid August/September.

As a result of predation by raccoons, otters, herons and **mostly large alligators**, about ten babies will survive to one year and barely five will reach maturity. Sex is determined by the temperature surrounding the egg in the nest. 86 F produces females but it takes 93 F to produce males. (Ahem!) Females will out-weight males at birth.

Alligator jaws when closing are powerful but weak when opening. While teeth are good for grabbing their prey, they are not good for biting off chunks so they prefer smaller prey. Large prey must be drawn under water to drown then left to rot (tenderize?) until chunks come off easily. Since we are prey, we should avoid them and never feed them. They have also been known to ambush small dogs.

Now a multi-million dollar industry alligators are commercially raised for meat. Skin is used to manufacture luxury items. J. Crew’s purse @ \$1500 and Harry’s Mens’ Alligator Shoes @ \$3941. Free shipping perhaps?

Submitted by: Anne Sciuto

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GRAND HAVEN WOMAN'S CLUB

The October meeting of our Woman's Club was just another in a series of great luncheons held at the Golf Club. We have had any number of great speakers and this meeting was no exception with a presentation by District # 3 City Councilman, Jason DeLorenzo, giving the group an update on the City's budget and some new happenings in the City of Palm Coast.

The GH Woman's Club, which now has a membership of 192 friends and neighbors in Grand Haven, is a very generous group of ladies. The Club donates food and much needed funds to Flagler Hospital, the Family Life Center, Habitat for Humanity, Flagler Free Clinic, Audubon Center, Flagler Playhouse, Whispering Meadows Ranch and oh so many more. At the October meeting, the Club presented a \$1,500 check to "The Stuff Bus", a program of the Flagler Co. Education Foundation, which provides essential supplies and clothing to needy children in every Flagler County school.

This lively group of ladies participate in other activities as well, such as "Let's Do Lunch" where members meet at each other's homes and share some great recipes. The "Material Girls" group makes items such as caps and pillows for newborns & hospital patients. There is also an annual arts display of members' works and the famous Day of Games which the entire community enjoys.

So if you are wanting to get involved in your community and want to be in the know as to what is happening in Grand Haven....join us! There is always room for more!

Submitted by: Pam Walker



Pat Beultman & Scott Combs accept check from Sandy Hollenbeck & Cathy Whitby



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Opera Lovers Take Note

Live Streaming in HD transmission straight from the N.Y. Metropolitan Opera House available in select theaters, this is a wonderful opportunity to see the opera as it happens as if from front row seats with close-ups of facial expressions, costuming and on-screen translation. Meet principal singers in behind the scenes interviews and all under \$20 per ticket compared to \$300 plus for a decent seat at the Met. Upcoming examples below from a total of ten presentations this opera season

- Le Nozze di Figaro - Sat. Oct 18 @ 12:55 PM - repeated Wed. Oct 22 at 6:30 P.M.
- Carmen - Sat. Nov 1 at 1:55 PM - repeated Wed. Nov 6 at 6:30 PM
- The Barber of Seville - Sat Nov 22 at 1:55 PM - repeated Wed Nov 26 at 6:30 PM

The Regal Pavilion in Port Orange (5547 S. Williamson Blvd. Pt. Orange) is the most up-to-date theater; however, also available at the Paragon Ocean Walk S. 250 Atlantic Ave. Daytona Beach. (Free Parking across the street when get your ticket punched at the box office).



A Fabulous Partnership!

It started some years ago with “A Taste of the Arts,” with the Flagler County Art League, the Palm Coast Arts Foundation, the Flagler Playhouse and the Flagler Youth Orchestra coming together for an evening of art, food, wine, music and theatre. For two years in a row, it was absolutely fabulous! FCAL and PCAF were looking to do something different together this year and we wanted to show Flagler County that the arts MATTER if we want to create vibrant communities! We were thinking of the large cities around the world where cows and horses (and flying pigs in Cincinnati) were placed in public places. We settled on chairs – something useful and possibly a palette for our FCAL artists.

As FCAL artists started to create amazing works of art on chairs they found and placed in the gallery, the project became so infectious that every week many more chairs arrived, and imaginations ran wild! Chairs found at garage sales and antique shops and family heirlooms were donated and appeared in the gallery and then disappeared to be returned later as amazing works of art! Other chairs were found on curbs where they’d been waiting for trash removal! One artist inspired another, and by the deadline we had EIGHTY SIX chairs. Some were auctioned at the “Chair-ity” event on October 3rd (see PCAF article) and some were sold the next day at the City of Palm Coast’s International Festival. The best part of the whole project was the fellowship forged between the artists of FCAL and the art supporters of PCAF!

Just fabulous!

For more information about new monthly art exhibits (next show “Walk With the Animals - opening November 8th), daily classes, art book club and other art- related activities for both artists and art supporters, at the FCAL gallery and Art Center, please visit www.flaglercountyartleague.com. With more than 350 members – more than one quarter of whom are **Grand Haven** residents – come join us!

Submitted by: Ann DeLucia, President, FCAL



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On October 3 in Town Center during the Chair-ity Auction, these words were evidenced by the transformation of the common household chair into a functional piece of art: a true conversation piece!

These were your standard boring seats at one time, until one of your neighbors brushed new life onto them creating a beautiful work of art. If you missed the Chair-ity auction sponsored by the Palm Coast Arts Foundation and the Flagler County Art League, you missed an exciting *art-sational* evening of bidding wars. A true sense of collaboration between the organizations brought out a capacity crowd. Thanks to our community of artists, nearly \$10,000 was raised! Every chair chosen for the auction was sold! Did you know that such talent existed within our own Grand Haven gates? Here's a mere sample of some of your very talented neighbors...



Paul Beaulieu, transformed a simple bench into a grand Monet-esque lilly pad work of art for a sponsor.

Charlotte Ruland's French inspired chair received many oo-la-las at the auction. The chair was sponsored and purchased by Allure European Day Spa.



Olga Monkevitch transformed this art deco chair purchased at a garage sale for \$2 – into a whimsical, fun, and most definitely a conversational piece

Rita Rueter's floral burst of color gave an illusion of 3-D



Jan Jackson chose a brilliant fish color scheme to this otherwise typical chair.

Zita Corum's lovely brush strokes turned blah into sassy with her color scheme and nature theme



Other Grand Haven artists included an abstract chair by Mike Gleason, a cow motif by Loretta Consolla, a bug-puzzle shape stool by Linda Hellings, intricate rooster ready for a morning wake up call by Nancy Walsh of Decorative Painters and artistic contributions of several chairs by Cathy Dormann. Also thanks to Bob Carlsen for photographing all the auction chairs and our musician of the evening Kevin Quinn!

Submitted by Nancy Crouch, Trustee, Palm Coast Arts Foundation

SAVE THE DATES

MARDI GRAS - Tuesday, February 17 to benefit **Flagler County Education Foundation**

For information, contact **Deborah Williams** at williamsd@flaglerschools.com



PICNIC AND POPS—Sunday, April 19 to benefit **Palm Coast Arts Foundation**

For more information, contact pcaf@cfl.rr.com





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THE "NO WORRY ZONE"

If you have raised a teen, you likely remember the first time your youngster took the car after they were licensed!? I do....waiting by the window for her return (*tap,tap,tap*). And then her first date....(*pacing the floor*) and peering out the window!

For the past six years I anxiously wait for our resident eagles, Romeo and Juliet, to return to their domain after their three month summer sabbatical. They are self-sufficient, powerful, independent and skilled eagles. But considering what they endure in the wild, their return is never taken for granted. It's a "Halleluiah" each year once they return back to their eyrie called "home".

Over the years monitoring them, they have become quite predictable and seem to follow suit year after year. But this year was different, and I was out of "THE ZONE". Throughout my frequent daily checks of the area, there were inconsistencies to the detailed timeline I have so accurately kept. They have always returned together (or just a few days apart). Romeo returned on schedule, but he rarely returns first. Juliet departed earlier in May than ever, and has never returned later than September 4.

It's September 14 and Romeo had been back over two weeks. His special mate is late.....or IS she returning? He was often seen perched at length faithfully waiting for her. Was Romeo out of "THE ZONE" too? All indicators led me to believe that due to an injury (or worse) she may not return. Romeo may not see his partner again. Will he seek another mate?? How long will that take to find another Juliet?? Will he stay at their nest??

Then I spotted two eagles perched together in one of their frequent perching spots a good flight from the nest. I could tell it was Romeo, and I was certain the other eagle was a female as she was obviously larger. Was that Juliet? Or was that another female eagle? I quickly got my binoculars in position shaking with anticipation. *I think it is, I think it is!* Or was that just wishful thinking?? It WAS our Juliet!!!! And a big "Halleluiah"!



"Talons crossed" they should be on eggs around mid-November. But they remain on "Eagle Time", as I remain in the "NO WORRY ZONE"!

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



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Croquet, Everyone? *What are all those people doing in white? Is it Croquet?*

For those who are interested in knowing more about this very old, yet new game, it might be helpful to explain that there are many different versions of Croquet. The most commonly thought of, when you mention the game, is the classic “back-yard” version that can be played on almost any terrain. But the version that the Courts here at Grand Haven were and are designed for is called “American Six Wicket Croquet”

The game so many of us played as children in our backyards required little more than a normally mowed lawn to play on, if that! There were two pegs or stakes, nine wire wickets, six mallets, (each with a different color band), and six balls that matched the mallets. Very often this set came with a storage stand. The mallets were very short and the balls relatively small, designed mostly for children.

However, American Six Wicket Croquet does require a very large and carefully maintained court that should resemble a putting green. It also requires heavy duty steel wickets, “deadness boards” for scoring, heavy duty balls, timers and a variety of associated equipment. With this game there is only one peg or stake, six wickets and a set of four balls for two to four players in a game. Six Wicket Croquet is a more complicated game that requires a considerable amount of instruction before a new player can begin to play a game on their own and players must purchase their own mallets.

“Golf Croquet” (played weekly at Grand Haven, in addition to “Six Wicket”) is a very popular version of the game because it is easy and quick to learn. Other versions include names like “Association Croquet”, “ Nine Wicket Croquet” “Extreme Croquet”, “Toequet”, and “Mallet Ball”. Association Croquet is very popular in England, Australia and other croquet playing countries. “Nine Wicket” is the grown-up version of Back Yard Croquet.

Any resident can take advantage of The Grand Haven Croquet Club’s four free lessons with no obligation to join the Club. During that time they will learn how to play Golf Croquet and the basics of American Six Wicket Croquet including a variety of shot techniques. Mallets are furnished during this learning period. Afterwards, residents will be invited to join the Grand Haven Croquet Club and receive further instruction from the members, although there is no obligation to do so. After joining, continuing instruction is available, as the

members of the Grand Haven Croquet Club voluntarily share their knowledge with newer players.

Oh, yes, the “Whites”! By tradition Croquet players dress in all white clothing and it offers good protection and comfort against the hot Florida sun but, it is not mandatory for non-club members. Flat shoes are required for everyone to prevent damage to the courts.

American Six Wicket Croquet is an addictive game that challenges people of all ages and is one of the few competitive games that both women and men can play on an equal basis and at almost any age. Many say it is a combination of Billiards, Putting and Chess. It takes a little time to really learn the game, but most members of the Croquet Club are very generous in their willingness to help new players and, even the learning can be a lot of fun.

*Submitted by: Cassandra Gaisor
President, Grand Haven Croquet Club*

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BE AWARE! BE PREPARED!

BE PROACTIVE! BE SAFE!

The November-December holiday times are upon us. Along with travels back home and the arrival of family and guests, and the joyful gatherings of relatives and friends both here and afar, they also can present less welcome activities and people. This time of year can also bring thieves, burglars, and in home robberies. These certainly do not make for this being "the most wonderful time of the year!"

Following are just a few reminders and suggestions to enable you to continue to keep your loved ones, your home and your property safer now and throughout the years to come.

- Be aware of unfamiliar cars and trucks in the neighborhood (especially those with magnetized signs on them) that are parked for long periods of time.
- Don't let unfamiliar people into your house without checking for proper identification.
- If you are leaving for more than overnight make sure that you suspend newspaper or package delivery so they do not pile up, or better yet, have a neighbor collect them and check that no flyers or notices have been put in your front door. That's a good way to alert robbers that no one is home.
- If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, make sure your alarm control panel is not visible so a potential robber can see if it is set or not. And if you have an alarm system, set it when you go out. Why have one if you're not going to use it?
- Always lock your doors: front, back, lanai, pool, garage, and sliding glass doors. Also your windows should be locked completely or only able to be opened a few inches. Get additional security for the glass sliding doors. A wood dowel put in the sliding track will not allow the door to open.
- FYI. Thieves say that they go to the Master Bedroom first!! So they will look in your sock drawer and the dresser drawers, the night stand, and the medicine closet. But they almost never go into the kids' rooms.
- If they don't have enough time to break into the safe where you keep your valuables, the robbers take it with them if it's not bolted down.
- A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television.
- Police have said that a dog is also one of the best alarm systems ever. People up to no good do not want loud barking to signal their arrival.
- Be careful with the trash you set out at the curb. Empty boxes from HD TVs, computers, DVD players, electronics equipment and the like are a menu of what is inside the

home. Break down those boxes and put them out in the morning, just before the trash truck arrives.

- Avoid announcing your vacation plans on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address. Parents caution your children about this. You see this every day.
- Protection for you and your home? Want to wreck someone's evil plan for you....try Wasp Spray! Police recommend this rather than pepper spray. Wasp spray can shoot up to twenty feet away and is a lot more accurate. It temporarily blinds an attacker until he/she gets to the hospital for an antidote. Put a can of spray near your door and your bed.

Car keys are another very effective tool to use against crime. Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone is trying to get into your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies. It works if you park in either the driveway or garage. It deters burglars and attracts attention from your neighbors. It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation.



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