



The Oak Tree

President's Message

SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS

Aside from some isolated thunder storms, Grand Haven has once again been spared the full effects of Elsa, the first hurricane of 2021 that threatened Florida. However, I urge all of our residents not to become overly complacent, understand the power of a severe weather event and act accordingly. The following recommendations are not meant to be all inclusive, but rather an over view of recommendations that should be taken should a hurricane be predicted to make land fall in our area.

General

- Fuel up cars and purchase fuel for generators, chain saws & other tools
- If you have a gas grill, fill propane tank
- Charge cell phones and other devices
- Have a sufficient amount of cash on hand – Small bills are preferable.
- Purchase and become familiar with a NOAA* battery operated radio
- Make early decision whether to “stay” or “go” while you can.

* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Exterior of Home

- If feasible, cover windows with shutters or plywood
- Prior to storm season, have all large trees pruned and thinned and have all yard debris removed from property
- If you trim your trees yourself, do not place any tree branches at the curb immediately prior to a storm.
- As storm approaches, be sure that there is no yard waste, recycling or trash at the curb
- Secure all garden decorations, hanging flower pots, flags and other “loose” objects from the exterior of your home
- Secure all outdoor furniture, grills, potted plants and pool accessories on patios and lanais.
- Do not under estimate the potential force and destructive power of hurricane force winds and a possible storm surge

Interior of Home

- Minimize quantity of perishable food in refrigerator and freezer
- Purchase food items that do not require either refrigeration or cooking
- If you have a pet, ensure that a sufficient amount of food is available
- Ensure that you have a sufficient amount of drinking water and medications available
- Turn off or disconnect all appliances that you were using at the time of the power loss

continued on Page 3

GHMA Meeting Schedule

The Board of Directors of the Grand Haven Master Association (GHMA) meets on the next to the last Friday of every month (unless otherwise noted.) All property owners are welcome to attend.

WHEN: 2 PM, Friday, August 20
2 PM, Friday, September 17
2 PM, Friday, October 22
2 PM, Friday, November 19

WHERE: Creekside Amenities Center
2 North Village Parkway

GHMA Board Members

President Rob Carlton 447-5536 rjcarlton5@aol.com
Vice Pres. Vic Natiello 813-392-1703 vicnatiello@aol.com
Treasurer Ed O'Brien 283-4184 Ed.obrien43@cfl.rr.com
Director Mike Frichol 585-3266 frichol@hotmail.com
Director Denise Gallo 843-9177 gallodenise@yahoo.com

The Oak Tree

EDITOR Nancy Carlton ncarlton096@gmail.com
PRODUCTION Troy Railsback trailsback@ssmgroupinc.com
CONTRIBUTORS Gretchen Butler Colette Moran
Nancy Carlton Patti Paukovich
Rob Carlton Troy Railsback
Nancy Crouch Kathy Reichard-Ellavsky
Matt Doughney Stephanie Salkin
Kevin Foley Anne Sciuto
Leigh Jackson Brad Scott
Chris Meehan

The Oak Tree is always looking for articles with ideas and topics for future issues, especially those that would be of interest to Grand Haven residents—Grand Haven activities, clubs, happenings, sporting events, resident volunteer activities and opportunities.

Please contact Nancy Carlton at ncarlton096@gmail.com with your suggestions

*Attitudes are
contagious...
make yours
worth catching.*

...Unknown

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President's Message...continued

Interior of Home (continued)

- Place flashlights in strategic locations throughout the house
- Use battery operated lanterns for lighting in various rooms
- If not shuttered, move smaller items away from windows and doors
- If you are determined to “stay,” select and prepare your emergency “safe area” well ahead of the storm. This should be a well-constructed interior room.
- Never run a generator indoors or in the garage
- Never use candles for lighting

Following a Storm Event

- Be aware that snakes and other various critters were also seeking shelter during the storm and may have found it on or close to your property
- During the clean-up process, be mindful of the extent and duration of the work involved. Be aware of your limitations. Clearing yard waste can be as strenuous as shoveling snow.

Yard Waste Disposal Process

- Soon after the storm danger has ceased, a one-time “pass” will be made by the CDD contracted debris removal company. At that time, the streets will be cleared of all storm debris. Bagged yard trash will not be removed.
- Following that “one time” pass, the City of Palm Coast and their waste removal contractor(s) will be responsible for the pick-up and disposal of yard waste. They will pick up bagged storm debris.
- From this point forward, all concerns regarding yard waste pick up should be directed to the City for further action.
- Please do not put your yard waste on or in front of unimproved lots. Doing so creates multiple problems for all involved.
- All additional information regarding post storm clean-up will be provided via E-Blasts at the appropriate time.

As we progress through the current hurricane season, I urge all residents to be ready for whatever storm events may occur. It is always practical to “hope for the best and prepare for the worst”.

Submitted by: Rob Carlton, GHMA President

While We Are Talking Storms

This year's tropical Hurricane Season started June 1st and runs through November 30, 2021. Being prepared for a disaster is extremely important and the Flagler County Emergency Operation Centers has a “Disaster Preparedness Guide” online at: <http://online.fliphtml5.com/gtIs/arwr/#p=1> The following safety tips are respectfully provided to assist you should a storm impact our area:

- Before a storm hits, fill up your washing machine with ice, put items inside that you want to keep chilled and close the lid to keep them cool. Don't worry about what to do when the ice starts to melt — the machine is designed to drain water.
- If you've pictures or other small items that you'd like to keep safe, try storing them in plastic bags and placing them inside your dishwasher. Please make sure you turn off the water supply to the unit before closing it with your valuables inside. Dishwashers are sealed to keep water inside and they should help keep water from getting inside as well.
- Place disposable aluminum cooking trays under the legs of furniture (chairs, couches, etc.) to help minimize water damage. This tip won't be of much help if major flooding occurs, but it can be helpful if a few inches of water enter into your home.

The importance of receiving timely and accurate information related to storms cannot be understated, so please follow trusted sources such as the Flagler County Emergency Operations Center: <https://www.flaglercounty.gov/departments/emergency-services/emergency-management>

*Submitted by: Matthew Doughney, Chief,
Flagler Beach Police Department*



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Landscape Management Practices

Algae growth in our storm water detention ponds (lakes) continues to be a challenge to our entire community. By adhering to the Best Management Practices in your yard, **you can make a difference** in algae growth even if you do not live directly on a pond. Remember that most runoff and waste material from your yard is likely to find a way to a pond through the storm water sewer system.

MANAGEMENT OF GRASS CLIPPINGS AND VEGETATIVE MATERIALS:

"In no case should grass clippings, vegetative material, and/or vegetative debris either intentionally or accidentally, be washed, dumped, swept, or blown off into storm water drains, ditches, conveyances, water bodies (ponds), wetlands, sidewalks or roadways."

Your cooperation in adhering to the above represents a significant step towards minimizing unsightly algae growth in the ponds throughout Grand Haven.

Flagler County Master Gardener Program

Are you new to Florida and Grand Haven or been here awhile, but don't know where to go with gardening questions? Did you know that Flagler County has an UF/Extension Office located in Bunnell that can advise you on your plants, turf, irrigation, and trees? They also do lab work to test the pH of your soil and answer your questions.

The UF/IFAS is research-based education in Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. The Flagler County's Extension is a team of professional educators and work with the community, farmers, suburban homeowners, and 4-H/Youth Development.

Florida gardening presents unique challenges, so UF/IFAS Extension offers research-based assistance, information, and advice. Whether you are developing a vegetable garden, choosing landscape plants, or seeking information about lawn care, our resources will help you make your yard green and beautiful.

The Florida Master Gardener Program is a volunteer-driven program that benefits UF/IFAS Extension and the citizens of Flagler County. The program relies on dedicated volunteers who have an interest in gardening and in giving back to their communities

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) means using low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices. Learn how you can have a beautiful landscape that could save you time, energy and money while protecting our future.

The Extension Office and the Master Gardener program provide many programs to the public, such as Demonstration Gardens, Quarterly newsletters, Short N Sweet Series, Plant Clinics and more.

To find out more about UF/IFAS and the Master Gardener Programs please visit us at: <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/flagler/> or email us: mgardener@flaglercounty.org. Or visit us on site: 150 Sawgrass Road, Bunnell, FL 32110 (by the Fair Grounds) 386-437-7464 Hours Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm.

Submitted by: Patti Paukovich





Neighborhood Watch

As the Covid isolation is winding down, and residents are finally out and about, it is time for a refresher on how to report crimes.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CRIME REPORTING PROCEDURES

1. Phone the Flagler County Sheriff's Office- 911 for emergency or crime in progress.
2. Phone 313-4911 for non-emergency situations.
3. Contact your Village Captain for any assistance.
4. Complete an Incident Report (IR) with case number provided by Sheriff's office and submit to your Village Captain.
5. BE PREPARED-Keep a current copy of your Village Captain/Block Leader list with your Grand Haven Community Directory.

A list of Village Captains/Block Leaders and Incident Reports (IR) will be available at the CDD office. Keep blank copies of the Incident Report (IR) at home.

You may also contact the GHNW Sheriff's Liaison, Lisa Mrakovcic- 386-447-4063.

Like us on Facebook @Grand Haven Neighborhood Watch

Submitted by: Colette Moran

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Palm Coast Rowing Club

You may have seen us when walking and biking along the boardwalk in Grand Haven...on the intracoastal rowing and sculling in singles, doubles, 4's & 8's. Some of us are residents of Grand Haven.

Who & What...In May 2021, the City of Palm Coast approved a "facility and boathouse use agreement" with the Palm Coast Rowing Club, a nonprofit, volunteer-focused association founded in 2015. Our mission is to advance the sport of rowing for adults and youth throughout the community while building friendships.

Where...currently PCRC operates out of the Palm Harbor Golf Course with plans to build a boathouse at Waterfront Park with City Agreement. The water access facility will be available to the public with a floating dock for canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, and rowers.

The City plans to start work in the fall of 2021, with the first phase completion date summer of 2022. PCRC will raise money for the boathouse development that will expand youth and adult rowing programs and include opportunities for private and corporate events.

With this partnership, the PCRC plans to grow its youth activities for middle-and high-school-age kids to learn and grow in the discipline of rowing and paddle sports. Other goals are to support underserved and disadvantaged youth.

Right here at home, competitive rowing activities for our middle and high schools in Palm Coast provides the portal for College Scholarships.

If you would like to learn more PCRC rowing activities, visit us at www.palmcoastrowingclub.com

Submitted by: Chris Meehan, President, PCRC




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The Turtle Trail has gone national! Donors from as far north as Michigan and as far west as California have now joined in recognizing and sponsoring these public art sculptures! Area counties are now contacting us to learn about The Turtle Trail so they too can start their own public art program. We love to see our public art initiative inspired by others allowing art to expand to neighboring communities.

In July, Parks and Recreation offered a bike tour that included The Turtle Trail. With all the bicycle enthusiasts in the area, we hope you participated in this fun way to not only get your daily exercise but enjoy the public art.

The Turtle Trail now has 14 turtles installed, with BEVERLY being the most recent. She was created by Flagler Beach artist Stewart Maxcy and sponsored by the Town of Beverly Beach and Jim and Debra Wingo. A 1950s post card depicting Beverly Beach was recreated for BEVERLY and she proudly sits in the garden by their community center.



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One of the nation's most notable visually impaired artists, John Bramblitt of Texas just completed the SEE turtle (Turtle #15) for Tomoka Eye, an amazing process which I followed through his social media. Truly awe-inspiring, I hope that when the unveiling is announced, you will join us for this amazing sculpture and learn more about the artist and how he creates through touch.

Coming up is LOUIE (Turtle #16) significant to the Jazz and Swing era of Louie Armstrong. Created by the artist who painted the Nancy Marie turtle at Palm Harbor Golf Club, Bob Teller is busily working up the sketches for LOUIE. "What a Wonderful World" is what we crave

right now. The Beach Haven community is sponsoring LOUIE.

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Art is a healing force that is enjoyed by all no matter your age, race, ethnicity, or gender. Our First Saturday Creative Bazaars offer opportunities for area artists to showcase their work and we are pleased that the second annual anniversary of these monthly fairs continue to be enjoyed by our residents, artists, and vendors.

Help the arts re-emerge! If the arts find meaning in your heart, we encourage you to support the arts in Flagler County.

Submitted by: Nancy Crouch, PCAF Executive Director

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GRAND HAVEN WOMAN'S CLUB

The Grand Haven Woman's Club is so grateful to the Grand Haven community for its support during the pandemic with contributions of supplies and cash to support local charities. Over \$4,000 in cash and over \$10,000 worth of goods have been donated to organizations such as the Family Life Center, the Grace Food Pantry, The Giving Store and Our Father's Table.



GHWC was also delighted to provide scholarships to two deserving graduating seniors again this year, one from Matanzas HS and one from Flagler-Palm Coast HS.



GHWC is looking forward to being able to come together again in person to begin its membership meetings and many of its fund raising events as it begins its 17th year. The following are some dates you can save for our upcoming activities:

- October 23 – **Annual Cocktails & Tapas** – GHWC members only
- October 30 – **Nine & Dine at GHGC** - This event is open to the entire community. It will have a Halloween theme and will be a fun event. It includes 9 holes of golf & dinner and doesn't matter what level of golfer you are...all are invited to attend.
- January 17 – **Day of Games** – Open to the entire community
- February 5 – **Cheers to 16 Years** – GHWC members only
- April – date TBD—Tennis Tournament – This event is open to the entire community.

You can check out the GHWC website at GHWomansclub.org for further details on any of these events.

GHWC will once again be collecting needed items for the local charities. Beginning September 21, collections will take place in the GHGC parking lot on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 11 AM – 3 PM. Please look for specific information in the eblasts that the Amenity Center so kindly sends to residents.



In November, Haven Family Fund (HFF) will be 5 years old!!! As the “neighbor helping neighbor” program of Grand Haven, we have been blessed by the number of our neighbors who have turned to us and trusted us to help them through difficult situations. And just as wonderful is the pride we have in the volunteers who offer their time to be a support for others right here in our neighborhood. Hundreds of hours given, some fabulous friendships developed, and a legacy we hope to carry far into the future.

Many are well aware of this “benefit” that comes with Grand Haven residency. HFF is a charitable 501(3)(c) organization that is NOT affiliated with Grand Haven. We were founded to support various needs that our fellow GH residents might have. Our 75 volunteers offer their time based on their schedule; a trip here, a visit there, when they have the time to fit it in. HFF also has an education and financial vision. Here is a little more detail:

Transportation: Most rides are in Palm Coast to a doctor, PT, or other type of appointment (even a trip to Publix), though we’ve driven to Jacksonville and Daytona for medical issues. We develop schedules with our clients so volunteers have some advance notice for their calendars. Our coordinator, Terri Langan, facilitates that process through email and responses are usually quick

In-Home Visitation: GH has its share of shut-ins and partners who are serving as 24hr care givers. One good way to meet people is to sit and visit, play games, or just be there for one of our home-bound neighbors. This can be a real blessing for the care-givers as well. Sandi Walker supervises this group and usually organizes teams to support our neighbor clients.

Community Resources: A small team headed by Gail Naworal is researching private and governmental services that could benefit many of us in GH as we travel through the years. One category on her radar involves the various continuing care facilities in Flagler County. The Education Team and Gail are considering a “meet and greet” program so GH neighbors can hear about these private facilities.

Education: Heading into our later years is filled with issues and being prepared is very helpful. So far,

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we have organized short gatherings to present CPR, Estate Planning, and computer advice. If you have topics of interest or want to join the team, Brad Scott currently leads this group.

Outreach/Events: Our marketing group is coordinated by Julie Dolgin. The Karaoke event, Arts and Crafts Fair, and Golf Tourneys were fun ways to help HFF get noticed. We would appreciate your organizational skills to support future successful events!

Fundraising: A part of our neighborhood responsibility is to care for the deep needs within our community; sometimes financial needs. In the past, HFF supported staff (golf course, village center, etc) through the pandemic and with some medical issues. And we have assisted neighbors that have been surprised by an issue that exceeded their current capability. Whatever the reason, our executive group occasionally receives requests for financial assistance.

Thank you for your interest in Haven Family Fund.

*Submitted by: Brad Scott,
havenfamilyfund@gmail.com*

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No Rest for the Wicket

Nationwide and around the world, the croquet community celebrated "National Croquet Day", on June 5, and the **Grand Haven Croquet Club** was no different. Each participant competed for raffle tickets, and at the end of the day, we had drawings for prizes. Yay to the prize winners and thanks to Hudson for being our ticket reader.



Speaking of **WINNERS**, nine of our club members competed and swept first and second place in a tournament held at the National Croquet Center in West Palm Beach. Thirty three participants from across the country played in the tournament with Grand Haven having taken the lead in the four flights.



Standing L-R: Jim Hester, Marsha Cargill, Robert Brightman, Bill Todd, Dave Paukovich, Kneeling L-R: Mijai Pagano, Nancy Crouch, Margaret Matuszak

Bringing home first place winners were Robert Brightman, Mijai Pagano, Marsha Cargill, Bill Todd, and Jim Hester. Second place winners were Nancy Crouch, Dave Paukovich and Margaret Matuszak. Edmund Giancola was edged out by Margaret in the final playoffs. Congratulations to the winners!

As you can see, croquet can be as competitive or social as you want to make it. We offer free lessons, and those interested in learning more about croquet and the club contact us at www.gcroquetclub.com or our Membership Director, John Fitterman at jjfitterman@gmail.com

Come join us to try something new, make new friends, and have fun.

See you on the courts!

Submitted by: Patti Paukovich



Thanks, Michele

If you know anything about Grand Haven, you know that the streets are lined with Live Oak trees. And the Community symbolizes the significance of the Live Oak tree in the Grand Haven Logo displaying a beautiful, strong and majestic signature Live Oak.

Live Oaks are steadfast and reliable...

Live Oaks are mature and grow strong and more significant without waiver...

Live Oaks don't get pushed around or knocked down in the everyday, even when the weather gets significant...

Live Oaks are always there to provide shade or protection and to lean on or get leveraged to assist without question...

The SSMG Grand Haven Team knows that aside from the recognizable presence of the Live Oak tree trunk and limbs that you can easily see every day, the Live Oak's root system is equally as substantial and more far reaching underground than the limbs that are seen above them...

The Live Oak's intricate and elaborate root system is vital in providing the foundation for stability for everything around it...

When a signature Live Oak no longer stands in the same place it once was there is an overpowering sense of bare and exposure...

Live Oaks can't be replaced... only another Live Oak can be planted with the hopes it will mature to similar significance...



However, the most important thing to recognize is that the root system from that previous signature Live Oak can never be removed...

That root system serves as the framework and anchors for everything it touched, and most importantly for the newly planted Live Oak to root itself, and hold onto, and wrap around and follow as a road map ensuring its ability to mature...

So always when I think of the SSMG Grand Haven Team Logo I will forever have Michele Logan in my mind as our beautiful, strong and majestic signature Live Oak.

Troy Railsback delivered this message upon Michele Logan's retirement from her position with Southern States Management Team. Thanks, Michele, for your commitment to the Grand Haven Community.

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The Eagles Nest

Samson and Gabrielle (Gabby's) offspring, Legacy, was a joy to observe this past nesting season. Legacy was entertaining and took that first daring flight (fledge) on April 26 at eleven weeks (right on schedule). Legacy departed with confidence on May 22. Gabby departed the next day, yet Samson remained in the nest area until June 11. Last season Samson was first seen at the nest on August 15. Gabby returned on September 4. We anxiously await their return. Until then the eagle's nest stands silent.....a tribute to our beloved resident eagle pair.....

The eagle's nest stands silent
Samson and Gabby's labor is done,
They've proven themselves worthy
One nestling raised.....they've won!

As wandering eagles saw them
Without a word they'd say,
"This territory is taken
You'd best be on your way!"

Returning home as fall awaits
They'll breathe a quiet sigh,
United again in courtship
They'll dance across the sky.

Speechless through December
Atop the Slash Pine Tree,
They patiently anticipate
Their hatchling(s) soon-to-be.

Then just before springtime
Their youngster(s) fully grown,
Branching with hesitation
Soon have cautiously flown.

The eagle's nest stands silent
Yet has so much to say,
Until they soon return again
We await that special day.

Authored by: Jim Weller and Gretchen Butler

Submitted by: Gretchen Butler

Audubon EagleWatch Nest Monitor/Volunteer
American Eagle Foundation/Volunteer
Bengals2@earthlink.net

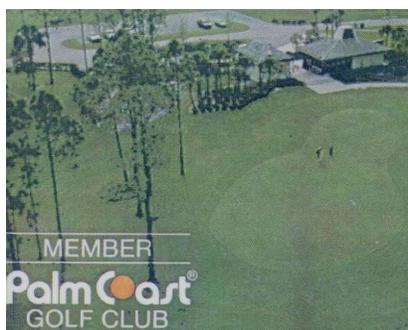


Palm Coast Historical Society

The 50th Anniversary of Palm Coast's first Golf Course

The first nine holes of the Palm Coast Golf Course opened in September 1971 with little fanfare. The Grand Opening occurred two months later. At that event International Telephone and Telegraph's Community Development Director, Dr. Norman Young, reportedly initiated the "shotgun start" with a real shotgun!

When the final nine holes of the 6,555 yard course were completed in 1973 they were considered to be among the best and most challenging in the state at that time. The pristine fairways lined with mature live oaks represented a complete transformation of the landscape from its original state, according to the course's renowned designer, Bill Amick of Daytona Beach.



Much of Palm Coast's 20,000 acre planned residential community needed to be dredged and drained in order to be made habitable. Engineers began building canals and roads in late 1969. Prospective buyers viewed the area from a 64-foot observation tower at the Welcome Center when it opened on October 29, 1970. That date has since been known as Founder's Day.

The "pioneers" had begun moving into their ITT/Levitt homes in the "core area" by January 1972. The first residential street was Casper Drive, named for US Open Champion Billy Casper. ITT changed Palm Coast Golf Club's name to Palm Harbor in 1981 after proposing the community's second course, Pine Lakes.

The Palm Coast Historical Society is celebrating the course's 50th Anniversary with a Nine and Dine tournament fundraiser on Monday, October 25, 2021. For updates go to www.palmcoasthistory.org.

Submitted by: Kathy Reichard-Ellavsky

All Gave Some, Some Gave All

With the lifting of certain pandemic restrictions, 2021 Memorial Day was the time to return to Grand Haven's annual remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. It was also the time to finally dedicate the Grand Haven Military Memorial.

On a beautiful May morning, over 200 Grand Haven residents came out to participate in this occasion. As always, residents carried flags representing each branch of the service in



which they served. Other veterans assisted with the raising and lowering of the flag. Retired Air Force General, Wil Hessert spoke of the sacrifices made by so many of our military men and women. And Rob Carlton

placed the wreath at the Memorial.

Retired Navy Captain, Bernie Hollenbeck presided over the dedication of the Military Memorial. He gave the history of how the idea came to fruition with Rob Carlton approaching him and Wil Hessert about a permanent memorial to honor those who have served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice, how those three worked on the design and implementation. He thanked the CDD for their contribution of the space and the over 100 residents who have supported the funding of the memorial with contributions. And there were over 400 who have purchased bricks honoring loved ones at the Memorial.



If you have not visited the Grand Haven Military Memorial, it is a lovely point of pride in Grand Haven honoring so many who have sacrificed for our freedom.



Palm Coast Wreaths For Veterans Chapter

On December 18, 2021 Palm Coast Wreaths for Veterans will place a remembrance wreath on every Veterans grave that lay in rest at Craig Flagler Palms Funeral Home.

Please join us to Honor our Heroes!!

Veterans are encouraged to wear head gear depicting their branch of service

**Fundraiser Dinner/Dancing/Silent Auction/50/50
Palm Coast VFW
47 Old Kings Road N.**

Saturday October 16, 2021, 5-9 PM

\$30 per ticket, contact Beth Branick (386) 447-0220

If you would like to donate a silent auction item, please contact Beth Branick for drop-off or pick-up.

Beth Branick

7 Front Street

Palm Coast, Florida 32137

Donations for Wreaths can be made out to "Palm Coast Wreaths for Veterans"—FL0638, 501(C) 3 # 20-836-2270, and mailed to :
P. Steggerda treasurer, 20 Porto Mar #302, Palm Coast, FL 32137

Remember | Honor | Teach



Grand Haven Woman's Club **4th Annual Nine & Dine**

Saturday, October 30

2:30 Shotgun Start, Scramble Format

**Open to men and women, golfers
and non-golfers of all abilities**

*Features Game Day Passes,
Awards Dinner and more*

For information on entry fees for golf/dinner, dinner only and registration, contact maureenpellegrini@gmail.com or visit the GHWC website at: Ghwomansclub.org/events

*Proceeds from this event benefit the charities supported
by the Grand Haven Woman's Club*



**Flagler
County
Art
League**

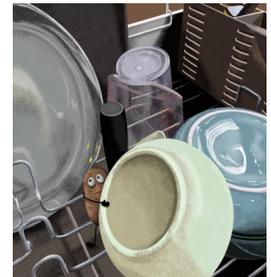
Flagler County Art League Hosts Two Concurrent Shows

Thanks to going "virtual" for all shows, the Flagler County Art League is featuring two overlapping events.

"FreeStyles," the engaging show currently up, will continue through the end of August, while "On a High Note," a juried music-themed event, has opened as well, and will continue through September 28.

As a result of going virtual, originally as a way to address pandemic needs, FCAL shows have gained national stature—attracting entries from all over the country.

The "FreeStyles" show features more than 140 entries, many of which are available for purchase. They are representative of a full array of two- and three-dimensional mediums. Best of Show is "Hidden Spud," a digital piece by Andover, MA. artist



Heather Scott. First of Show is "Shrimp Cleaners," a watercolor by Fran Mangino of Venice, FL, while Second of Show is "Olive and Amethyst," a watercolor by Palm Coast's own

Sheryl Fletcher Coon. Third of show is "Fabricated," a mixed media piece by a Gallup, NM, artist, Dylan Overheim. A number of additional awards have gone to other local and national artists. The judge was well known artist Paul Beaulieu, a Grand haven resident.

At press time, the winners of the "High Notes" show, with over 100 entries accepted, had not yet been announced.

To view the shows, visit flaglercountyartleague.org.

Submitted by: Stephanie Salkin, FCAL

We Otter Know

Except for the Florida Keys, river otters, are found in rivers, lakes, ponds and swamps. We may not see them often as they are mostly nocturnal. Arrayed with webbed feet and long sleek bodies they are equipped for swimming. Their long muscular tail and powerful large webbed feet propel them through water at speeds up to 8 MPH. Otters can dive below 25 feet.

While underwater, ears and noses automatically close and a clear eyelid membrane protects their eyes. Coupled with sensitive whiskers, they have little trouble locating and grabbing a fish dinner in their teeth and often use their forepaws and thumbs to manipulate prey. They vary their diet with reptiles, fish, birds, insects and small mammals.

Otters are solitary animals when reaching maturity. A female may have up to six pups and, as a family, they are playful creatures often seen taking turns sliding down river banks and cavorting in the water. They vocalize with a variety of sounds, including an ear piercing scream emitted when scared, which can be heard across water a mile distant.

Otters have fur that is soft, dense and velvety, with long guard hairs and a dense coat of silvery underhairs. They were almost hunted to extinction for pelts used in the fashion industry. With unregulated trapping, destruction of wetlands and poor water quality, the population was vastly reduced. Thanks to efforts starting in the 1970's, wildlife agencies can take credit for a recovery that has successfully restored otters through most of their range.

So, if you do see an otter, keep your distance. They look cuddly but armed with sharp teeth and non-retractable sharp claws on their feet, they can be aggressive if startled or scared.

Submitted by: Anne Sciuto



CDD CORNER

The CDD Board of Supervisors has received several comments from residents about pedestrian and bicycle safety particularly when crossing the street at the Village Center and Creekside intersections. Each intersection is quite large and there is a significant distance between both sides of Waterside Parkway and North Village Parkway. So, even when a pedestrian or bicyclist looks both ways before crossing, it is very possible that a car or truck can appear before they reach the other side.

Further, while the speed limit is 30 mph there are frequently speeders who make the crossing more dangerous. So, at its July 15 meeting, the CDD Board asked management to develop some alternative safety measures for those two intersections and present them to the board at its August 5 workshop. The board's intention is it so take steps to protect those crossing the intersections and to encourage drivers to slow down when approaching.

Hopefully, by the time you read this article, we will have some initiatives in place. We realize there are other places where pedestrian safety could be improved in Grand Haven and those will also be considered. If you have had a close-call, then please contact the CDD office at 386-447-1888 to let us know about it.

In all cases, the CDD Board recommends pedestrians and bicyclists use crosswalks and look both ways frequently when crossing any intersection. We encourage drivers to please obey the speed limit and SLOW DOWN when approaching these intersections.

Submitted by: Kevin Foley, CDD Board of Supervisors



GHMA NEWSLETTER

Grand Haven Master Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 354785

Palm Coast, FL 32135

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