

President's message

Spring has sprung; it is a time when a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love! In Grand Haven our thoughts are turning to getting out in the sunshine and sprucing up the outside of our homes.

This is a good time to remind all residents that unless you are simply replacing a dead bush or flower with the same variety, you must file an application with the ADC. If you are adding anything to the outside of your home, such as a trellis or a new front door, if you are adding curbing to your landscape, making new landscape beds or making any kind of changes, please get the proper form from our website and submit it. There is no charge for this type of submittal.



Kenny O'Connor

Many of us are taking advantage of the warmer weather to get out for walks to improve our health or to simply enjoy the day. We have mentioned before the need to trim the street trees which line our sidewalks. Trimming them to at least seven feet will enable your neighbors to take a walk without dodging branches.

In this issue of *The Oak Tree*, there is an article about fire mitigation in Grand Haven that points out the necessity of keeping all of our trees trimmed. It is not only a courtesy to your neighbors but a good fire mitigation practice.

The board has selected long-time Grand Haven resident Robert Witty to fill the vacancy on the board. I would like to welcome Bob and I know that he will be a valuable addition. The next board meeting will on April 23 at 2 p.m. at the Creekside Amenity Center.

*Kenny O'Connor,
President, GHMA*



Grants sought for wildfire control

State fire officials are applying for a grant from the Florida Department of Forestry that would be used to mitigate fire danger in wooded preserves within Grand Haven. Timber Weller, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist for the state's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, announced the grant application following several tours of Grand Haven.



Timber Weller

Members of the Grand Haven CDD, the Master Homeowners' Association and the Community Response Team (CERT) accompanied Weller and several Palm Coast firefighters on the recent tours of the area to determine possible wildfire risks.

The visits were planned to inform residents of what to do in case of a fire in the area. "Preparation is the number one factor in reducing wildfire risk," Weller stressed.

Weller will be writing the grant application for a portion of the \$900,000 received by the Department of Forestry from the federal government's stimulus program to aid in fire mitigation in Florida. According to Weller, the department is anxious to begin using this money in areas where homes are adjacent to woodlands, such as Grand Haven. He said the grants should be approved quickly, instead of the normal eight to ten month timeline.

The grant will cover the cost of mulching underbrush in Grand Haven preserves behind houses. The overgrown palmettos, wax myrtles and shrubbery provide fuel for wildfires. The mulching will be done to keep the underbrush a minimum of 30 feet away from structures.

No trees will be cut down in the process, Weller said, as fires travel faster in the underbrush, not in the treetops.

The grant must be approved by the St. Johns Water Management District.

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Wildfires

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The lack of rain this past winter has resulted in dangerous fire conditions, officials said, and they suggested several steps that should be taken by residents to prepare their homes for the upcoming fire season.

The steps include:

All houses must have a house number clearly visible; the number should be facing the street and not hidden by trees or bushes.

All trees should be trimmed up to seven feet, ten feet on tall trees. Remove vines from trees and keep shrubbery away from pine trees so that a fire cannot climb these fuel ladders to the treetops.

Remove all dead vegetation from around a home and keep all shrubs trimmed. Since wildfires travel on the ground, removing fuel could save a home.

Large hardwood trees and pine trees provide shade, which is important to cool a home and trap moisture on the ground. Keep all lower branches trimmed and rake up needles near the house. Where possible, remove flammable plants such as palmetto and red cedar away from the house and replace them with less-flammable plants such as viburnum, dogwood, oaks, and azalea.

Keep all roofs and gutters clear of pine needles and trim branches so they do not hang over the roof.

All of the above steps may not be appropriate for every homeowner, but it is possible to keep attractive landscaping while also protecting a home from wildfires.

CERT is working on a possible evacuation plan with the help of Weller, and local officials are considering alternative methods of leaving Grand Haven. Residents should decide in advance where they would go, how to get there and what to do with pets. Unlike hurricane evacuations, wildfires give little warning and residents may only have a few moments' notice to evacuate.

For more information, visit the websites www.fl-dof.com or www.firewise.org.



Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Q. What happens if I don't pay an assessment?

A. You will get a reminder letter. If the assessment is not paid shortly thereafter, you will get a letter notifying you that if the bill is not paid within 45 days, a lien will be placed on the property. If this all occurs, you will end up owing the original assessment, late fees and interest, plus the cost to place the lien and the cost to remove the lien. It is best to pay the assessment.



Q. There is a big white mailbox just south of the Creekside amenities center on Marlin Drive. Can I mail my taxes there?

A. You can if you want your taxes to go to the ADC, but most people send their forms to the IRS. The Marlin Drive box is only for ADC application forms. It is there to save residents a trip into Palm Coast to deliver the forms to the SSMG office.

Q. I filled out the ADC forms for a landscape/sidewalk change, put them in the white mailbox and know when my application will be reviewed. Do I need to go to the meeting?

A. You do not have to attend the meeting but we encourage you to do so. The application should be accompanied by a plot plan, diagrams, color samples, detail specifics and pictures if applicable. Some applications simply don't convey enough information. While you may know exactly what you plan to do, the information provided to the ADC may not describe it in enough detail. If you are at the meeting, you can clarify the plan on the spot. If you are not, the ADC will reject the application and request more information. Attending the meeting is a good idea and could save you time.

Q. What can we recycle in Grand Haven?

A. Recycling is handled by Palm Coast. Its contractor, Waste Pro, picks up recycled materials in Grand Haven on Thursdays. You may recycle: newspapers, mixed office paper, phone books, junk mail, magazines, corrugated cardboard boxes, cereal boxes (no liners), glass bottles, aluminum/steel cans, and plastic bottles coded with 1, 2 or 3 on the bottom. For more information, call the city of Palm Coast at 986-3700.

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Eagles find a home in Wild Oaks

Two bald eagles have taken up residence in Grand Haven's Wild Oaks neighborhood and volunteers from the Audubon Society's Eagle Watch Program, Gretchen Butler and Margie Ford, have been keeping a daily vigil.

The nest is atop a 75-foot pine tree visible from the path leading to the dog park. To view the nest, after entering the village, turn right and then make the first left. The area is roped off to prevent disturbing the eagles. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, disturbances anytime during the nesting season could lead to abandonment of the nest or the young. Viewers are advised to walk slowly, talk softly and act as if "you could easily frighten these beautiful birds away because you could."



Wild Oaks eagles in their tree top home.

According to Butler, two hatchlings were born Jan. 2 and 3 and were spotted making their first solo flights March 20. While one of the youngsters managed a successful first flight, the other looked more like a feathered rock as it fell from the nest tree and wandered through the dense preserve for the night. Both eaglets later reappeared in the nest and by early April, were improving their flying skills.



Two eaglets in their nest.

Mary Ann Shields, a Grand Haven resident and an Audubon volunteer, said that Florida's nesting season begins in October. Pairs of eagles reuse nests for many years, she said, adding that a nest she monitors on Old Kings Road has been active for more than 30 years. New material, Shields said, is added every year and the nests can weigh hundreds of pounds or more. An eagle can have from one to four eaglets, she added, and incubation is 33 to 35 days. The eaglets become full sized and feathered in three months.

After the eaglets master flying, the parents will teach them how to hunt. Since their main food source is fish, they might be seen at some of the retention ponds in the area. Once the eaglets learn to hunt successfully, the parents will drive them out of this area since eagles are territorial and this is the territory of the parents.

The fledglings will migrate to the north sometime in May, perhaps as far as Canada, but could return to this area in the future. The parents may also migrate but will go their separate ways until October, when the mom and dad will reunite and begin a new nesting season in the same nest.

Since eagles live to about 50, bond for life and reuse the same nest, Grand Haven residents could have many more years to enjoy them.

In case of emergency, think ICE

One of the difficulties long faced by emergency personnel is how to locate next of kin for an accident victim who is unconscious or otherwise unable to respond to questions. Even if the victim is carrying one or more forms of identification, those items don't necessarily provide information about where and how relatives or other interested parties can be reached, resulting in delays as officials try to track those people down.

Placing ICE in a cell phone is a good way to address this problem. The idea is that you store the word "ICE" in you mobile phone address book, and alongside it, enter the number of the person who should be contacted in case of emergency. In an emergency situation, ambulance or hospital staff will be able to quickly determine the next of kin and contact the named person. For more than one contact name, use ICE1, ICE2, ICE3, etc.



"Give us a name."

Research carried out by Vodafone shows more than 75 percent of accident victims have no detailed information on whom to call. The ICE system could be a lifesaver.

Grand Haven: The history

By Art Dycke

The golf course and clubhouse

*Editor's note: Prior issues of **The Oak Tree** covered the history of Grand Haven from 25 Million B.C. to 1996. To review, in 1969, ITT, the development's original planner, received authorization to build the Grand Haven development (known at that time as River Club). While ITT completed many other projects in this area, its development of River Club/Grand Haven was not to be. In August 1995, ITT sold the undeveloped land to Lowe Enterprises. Our last issue covered early road building and the hardy pioneers who purchased dirt, a promise and a dream. Following is the history of the golf course and clubhouse.*

Back in the heady days of 1996, the Lowe organization employed Bobby Ginn as general manager of its Grand Haven development, with Bob Devore in charge of construction. Jack Nicklaus' design firm was retained to design the golf course. In August of 1997, Jim Cullis, an employee of Lowe Enterprises in Seattle who previously worked for Nicklaus, came on board to head the entire development. Ginn moved over to work on Lowe's development of Ocean Hammock.

The groundbreaking for the golf course took place on December 3, 1996, at the site of the present 18th hole; construction continued for another year.

At the time, there was speculation that the course's signature hole would be the third, but Nicklaus was reported to prefer the sixth hole because of the need to tee off over a hazard. Others were convinced that Grand Haven's signature hole would be the eighth, a par 3 over water.

The golf course officially opened for play on May 10, 1998, although early residents were able to play prior to that date. Six months later, on October 6, Grand Haven was officially designated as a Jack Nicklaus Signature Course with a three-day celebration and the eighth as its signature hole.

A massive sales effort for the Grand Haven development featured the Nicklaus Signature designation, and he was at the October 6 festivities, signing autographs, taking photos with residents and talking with guests. Nicklaus played the course wearing a microphone so he could describe it hole by hole to the gallery that followed him.

Amenities were limited at the course in those early days. The clubhouse was a triple wide with a pro shop and snack bar, a facility beloved by early residents. The club's first board of governors was elected in October 1999; the members included Bill Klingenberg, Don Cameron, Bob Witty, Bob Borer, Irene Klingenberg, Tom Corum, and Dee Glass.

LandMar, a Jacksonville-based subsidiary of Crescent Resources bought Grand Haven from Lowe in June of 2000.

In mid-2000, Hampton Golf, a golf management firm affiliated with LandMar, took over the running of the course. On October 11, 2001, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the construction of a 17,000-square-foot clubhouse.

At the ceremonies, Crescent Resources' Ed Burr told the large crowd that the club would soon become private, and would no longer be open to the public. The transition from a public course to a private one would be completed on June 1, 2002.

Following his announcement, all the guests were presented with champagne flutes embossed with the Grand Haven name. The Hampton Golf organization would manage the entire facility and company officials promised members that the best quality food, linens and customer service would be offered.

In an interview, Cullis, who is no longer with LandMar and has opened his own business, said meetings were held with Grand Haven members before the clubhouse construction to determine what should be included in the building.

According to Cullis, the members decided they preferred a more spacious dining area and social amenities to large locker rooms.

The Grand Haven clubhouse opened on August 3, 2002. A promise of the developers and a dream of the early "pioneers" had finally become a reality.



Jack Nicklaus putting on opening day. Nicklaus wore a microphone during his round to describe the course to the crowd.



Dennis Cross, an early Grand Haven resident, points to a flag denoting the location of the 18th hole in a photo taken in January 1997. Cross recalls the day he purchased his Front Street lot: “We were stuck in the middle of (what would become) the golf course in our salesperson’s four-wheel-drive vehicle and had to be pulled out by large earth grader. No streets, no utilities, no amenities and only piles of dirt for a golf course. What the hell did I just do?”



Grand Haven’s first board of governors: (from left, front row) Irene Klingenberg, Tom Corum and Dee Glass. (Back row, from left) Bill Klingenberg, Don Cameron, Bob Witty, and Bob Borer.



The triple-wide trailer used as a clubhouse from the spring of 1998 until the opening of the clubhouse in August 2002. Early members recall the triple wide with fondness.



The new clubhouse, prior to its August 2002 opening.

Fishing club welcomes new members

The recently re-formed Palm Coast Inshore Fishing Club welcomes newcomers and novices. The club helps members to enjoy the varied fishing opportunities available in northeastern Florida.

The major focus of the club is “inshore” fishing, which includes fishing near shores, at ocean beaches, inlets, the Intracoastal Waterway, saltwater flats, rivers and creeks, local freshwater lakes and retention ponds in Grand Haven.

A typical meeting might include a tackle demonstration, fishing reports, tips and tricks, open discussion, questions and answers, and perhaps a few “fish stories.” Whatever type of fishing a member would prefer, chances are he or she will find a local “guru” at the club who will be delighted to share knowledge.



The 11- year-old grandson of club member Frank Smith displays a nine-pound jack. He later caught a four- pound bass in one of the Grand Haven retention ponds. Both fish were released unharmed.

Past presentations have included casting net instructions, tackle maintenance, knot tying, types of fish, and special requirements for surf rods and reels. A fly-tying class and a hands-on demonstration of bass fishing techniques in retention ponds were also held.

The club meets on the second Friday of every month, at 2 p.m. in the Grand Haven Room of the Village Center. For more information, call Frank Smith at 246-9885.

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: Person needed for one hour per week to help keep Grand Haven grand.

Required qualifications: You care.

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
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Director	Roy Search	445-4519	rsearch@cfl.rr.com
Director	Bob Witty	931-6167	rwitty@bellsouth.net

2009 meeting schedule

The board meetings are scheduled on Thursdays at 2 p.m. in the Creekside Amenity Center. All residents are welcome to attend.

Meeting dates:

April 23
June 18
August 20
October 22
November 19



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

The Oak Tree staff

Kendra O'Connor, President, GHMA
Ray Smith, GHMA communications
Diane S. Zeeman, Editor
Troy Railsback, Production manager

(FAQs)

(Continued from page 2)

Q. I want to compliment your handling of the recent problem at the Village Center. Thanks for your good work.

A. While we readily accept compliments, we must confess (and are happy about it) that the GHMA does not operate the Village Center. The compliment should go to the CDD or its amenities management company

Q. They changed the watering rules again? What applies to Grand Haven?

A. The St. Johns Water Management District, which includes Grand Haven, implemented new watering regulations in March and the city of Palm Coast added some more. The rules limit landscape irrigation, i.e. watering of lawns, flowers, etc., to two days a week during Daylight Savings Time and one day a week during Eastern Standard Time. It also limits the amount of watering to three quarters of an inch per irrigation zone and no more than one hour per zone.

The rules also require odd numbered addresses to water on Wednesday and Saturday and even numbered addresses to water on Thursday and Sunday. Residents with private wells may water between 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. Residents using city water may irrigate between 2 a.m. and 8 a.m.

According to the Florida Extension Service, this amount of water is sufficient to keep St. Augustine grass healthy. The Extension emphasizes, however, that you must regularly check your sprinkler system to assure that the heads are working properly and you are getting full coverage of the entire lawn.

Violation of the rules will result in a warning from the Palm Coast code enforcement office. Repeated violations can lead to citations.

Q. I vaguely remember something about using cats to check the coverage of a sprinkler system so I put a long leash on my cat and tied it to a post in the middle of my yard, then turned on the sprinklers. I figured if there was a dry spot, the cat would find it .Was this the right method?



A. Yours is a unique method but most people use empty cat food cans (or dog food, tuna or similar-sized cans), and place them at numerous spots in the yard, then run the system. Little or no water in a can indicates non-uniform coverage. The open side of the can should be up, of course.

Q. The frost killed several of my plants. Do I need ADC approval to replace them?

A. Replacing in kind does not require ADC approval. If however, you enlarge the project and decide to either change the size/shape of the planting area, add curbing, landscape lighting, or fountains, for example, then you need to feed the white mailbox with an application.

Q. I saw the article in the last issue of *The Oak Tree* about parking but I am still confused. What are the rules?

A. Without getting into legal terminology, the rule is “be a good neighbor.” Your visitors can park in front of your house. You can park on the street while at your neighbors for that card party or dinner. But if a vehicle blocks the street, is parked overnight or is parked repeatedly on the street day after day, tickets will be issued.

Q. I sent in an article for *The Oak Tree* and you changed it? Why?

A. It's called the editor's prerogative. We are fortunate to have a resident who was a newspaper editor for 30 years. She edits *The Oak Tree* to assure the readers will understand each article. She may modify the use of the English language or simplify complex subjects so the average reader will understand. Don't take offense, she edits everybody's articles - can't stop the habit after 30 years.

Q. I heard the CDD was installing bubblers in some of the ponds. When will they turn on these fountains and will there be colored lights at night?

A. Unless you have scuba gear and like alligators, you will not see anything. Bubblers are not fountains; they are devices installed below the surface to aerate the water to help combat algae growth in the ponds.



GHMA NEWSLETTER
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Palm Coast, FL 32135

Southern States Management Group (386) 446-6333
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

