

# OUR CIRCLE REPORT

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www.thecottagesofrivendell.com

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## LOOKING GOOD



How can one not help but notice all the landscape work which is underway in The Cottages? There's still a lot more to be accomplished but how does the saying go, "the best lawn starts with the first blade"?

Prime Environmental removed several thousand square feet of Bermuda grass and treated the barren areas with two chemical applications. Once the chemicals do their job (this process should take about 14 to 21 days) the new St. Augustine sod will be put in place.

Irrigation timers will be set to assist with the growth but hopefully Mother Nature will co-operate too. Hand watering by the property owner will not only be appreciated but it will enhance the growing process. A good rule-of-thumb for hand watering is: if, in a seven day period, we get 2" to 3" of rain plus the normal weekly irrigation, no hand watering should be required. Little or no rain, a good hand water twice per week at dusk may be required.

Johnson Tree Service has been hard at work removing several palms and trimming other selected trees.

Middleton Lawn & Pest Control will assume the care of the new sodded areas as well as all the established St. Augustine grass with pest, fungus and weed control.

## A NO, NO

While it may seem like the good thing to try to rid your own lawns of those pesky, creepy crawlers or help enhance the growth of your grass, Middleton Lawn & Pest Control urges us **not to apply anything** to the lawns.

Reason? You can, and unfortunately most people do, purchase products that when mixed with the professional applications cause major or even permanent damage to your lawns. At times self help is appreciated but this case is not one of them.

## NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD

The following is highlight news from the most recent Board Meeting and is **not official** until approved at the next meeting.

The June 17th meeting was called to order at 7:10pm with Directors Straw, Huwlier, Myles and Lettich present to establish a quorum. Minutes for the May meeting were approved.

Homeowner input included questions about the Canopy Road Designation. Director Huwlier referred owners to [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net) and click to A-F Urban Forestry website "Ordinances" for more information. Directors will ask County to clarify in writing what homeowners may do to oaks to protect roofs and other items. Other topics discussed were untrimmed magnolia trees, fungus on bushes and requests for volunteers for the Rivendell Security Patrol sponsored by the Master Association.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Grounds** - Properties needing shrub replacement to be identified

- Alley repair chair person obtained required bids but there still remains several questions to be answered
- Electrical repairs to Club House & streetlights done

**Finance** - Figures for May and June see page 4

### **New Business:**

Discussions include the length of time and the process for sod replacement by Prime Environmental. Once the new sod is in place the maintenance care by Middleton Lawn & Pest Control.

There's a need for a time line for replacement of shrubs and an amendment draft to our by-laws will be drawn up to address homeowner responsibility for shrub replacement.

See related article on page 2 about the property behind the south boundary fence.

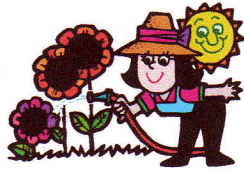
Canopy street designation, see related article on page 3.

Lighthouse Property Management is working to enforce deed restrictions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

## GROWING ON YOU

The contributor to the garden column is on vacation and the regular "Growing On You" news will appear in the next issue.



## WHAT'S COOKING ?

Have you a favorite recipe you'd like to share with your neighbors? If you do, please send it to: What's Cooking at [cottagenews84@yahoo.com](mailto:cottagenews84@yahoo.com).

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## BOUNDARY FENCE

For several years now the residents of the Cottages whose property abuts the south boundary fence have complained about the uncontrolled growth in the adjoining lot. This "wild" area is not only a jungle for all sorts of unwanted and potential and damaging critters but a major fire is a definite possibility.



The owner of the land has been requested to have things cleaned up on more than one occasion but so far little or nothing has been done.

### Here's what needs to be done!

All residents are urged to call **Sarasota County at (941)861-5000** and ask for the office of **County Code Enforcement** and express your concerns about the neglected property on Old Venice Road south of Rivendell Blvd and point out the need to clean it up and the fire hazard!

## LIST ? EXPLANATION !

Since the start of our landscape projects several residents have approached Maintenance with the question, "Is my yard on the list?". Or, "Make sure my yard is listed!". Better yet, "Can I see the list?".

Here's the best explanation. **There is no "list"!** You may see a worker with a "list" but it was something the vendor drew up for their use and not something given them by our Directors.

Once all the vendors involved with the current landscape work completed their assessment of our needs, they formulated their own plans as to what was going to get done, and when. There was very limited input from the Cottages!

In due time the entire neighborhood should be spruced up but the key word here is, "time".

### **Noodle Rice Pilaf**

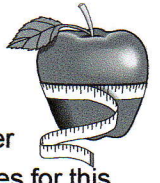
**2 tablespoons** butter  
**1/2 cup** uncooked long grain rice  
**1/4 cup** uncooked egg noodles or vermicelli, crushed  
**1 1/3 cups** chicken broth

In a small saucepan, melt butter. Add rice and noodles: cook and stir for 3-4 minutes or until lightly browned. Stir in broth. Bring to boil. Reduce heat: cover and simmer for 20-25 minutes or until rice is tender and broth is absorbed.

**Yield: 2 servings**

## DIETER SURPRISE

There was quite a positive response to our special recipe for those dieting. As pointed out by several residents, the page on which the dieters recipe was printed seem to be missing from a number of copies of OUR CIRCLE REPORT. OCR apologizes for this error.



To amend, the entire recipe for Fabulous Apple Turkey Surprise is reprinted in this issue. Bon appetite!

## BASEBALL TICKETS



Again this summer there are plenty of free tickets to see the Sarasota Reds play at Ed Smith Stadium, corner of 12th & Tuttle. The Reds are the Advanced Class A minor league affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds. Weekday games start at 7pm. Saturday, 6pm and Sunday at 1pm.

For tickets please call Mac Segar at 918-0343

## ALLEYWAY RESIDENTS NOTE

All residents whose property includes the alley, please note. The alley repair has begun and in a couple of weeks the black top dressing will be applied. Prior to this happening all residence affected will receive a flyer with detailed instructions and further information. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

## CANOPY STREET

During the recent Board Meeting there was a great deal of discussion regarding the feasibility for our neighborhood to be designated a "Canopy Street".

Many questions concerned the standards we'd like to have our trees trimmed to versus what the County would, or could, do especially with what appears to be pending budget cuts. How often would the County do any trimming and would they keep up with the growth of our trees?

Many in attendance were surprised to learn just what the County is already responsible for. However, our long time residents couldn't recall seeing any County work done so how could we be sure what they'd do if the Cottages received the canopy designation.

All residents are asked to submit in writing any questions to the Board which will be passed on to the County. The County will be requested by the Board to respond in writing as to exactly what their obligations are and will continue to be and what an owner may do to limit damages without risk of fines..

## MORE SOD INFORMATION

One of the biggest questions being asked by our residents is exactly what sod is being replaced and what about all the bare spots or cinch bug areas. The current replacement involves all the Bermuda grass. Prime Environmental working with Middleton Lawn & Pest Control determined the Bermuda grass is the biggest threat to our lawns so that is what's being taken care of first. Residents are asked not to seed lawns as this is the biggest source of Bermuda .

Next, when it's time for the sod to be put in place several of the bare spots should get sod too. However, before some of the barren spots are re-sodded it must be determined why they are bare in the first place and actions taken to be sure the new sod will "take".

Finally, Middleton is addressing the cinch bug problem with their chemical applications. Grass areas affected by cinch bugs will, after treatment, come back after several weeks.

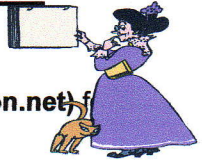
## POOL SOLAR HEAT

As a long term cost reduction, the Board is in the process of obtaining bids for solar heat to our swimming pool. Currently the cost for electricity to heat the pool is one of our major expenses (and getting higher all the time). Before any decision is made regarding solar heat a complete study of cost vs long term savings will be done.

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

No activity news was reported or any future event dates & times scheduled.

Contact Jane Lettich (966-0856 or [knjlet@verizon.net](mailto:knjlet@verizon.net)) for further information.



## TREE PRUNING

This is a "late news" item related to the tree pruning.

The much needed pruning and trimming of the larger oak trees and palms is under way. This pruning will be beneficial to the trees and will serve us well should we not be so lucky this upcoming hurricane season.



## **BOARD of DIRECTORS & COMMITTEES**

**BOB AXSIOM - 1ST VICE PRES, Maintenance Back-Up**

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**LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY MGT - (941)966-6844**

Contact:: Kyanne Merril [kyannemerrill@mgmt.tv](mailto:kyannemerrill@mgmt.tv)

**Report all deed restriction issues directly to Lighthouse**

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## CONTACTING US VIA E-MAIL

Problems with Maintenance, Street Lights or Irrigation

**[unit1maintenance@yahoo.com](mailto:unit1maintenance@yahoo.com)**

News Items or Comments For OUR CIRCLE REPORT

**[cottagenews84@yahoo.com](mailto:cottagenews84@yahoo.com)**

**PLEASE, IF YOU SEE ANY PROBLEM IN THE COTTAGES, REPORT IT ASAP BY PHONE OR E-MAIL. DO NOT WAIT !**

***OUR CIRCLE REPORT is not responsible for any errors which may alter the original intent of the written material.***