Sandalwood Park News

February 2013



Sandalwood Park Homeowners, Inc. Venice, Florida

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From the President:

This is for sure my final article as SPH President. My term as Director is expiring and I'm not on the ballot. Please allow me to reminisce over the seven years I've served as President of SPH.

I start by honoring those who served in my position and on the Board before me. They did just what was required to bring Sandalwood to private ownership and install an organization to successfully operate this cooperative. Be assured that any of my comments are not to be critical of anybody who has given of their time and energy for the sake of our park.

In 2005, I asked you to elect me to the Board with intentions of being part of changes that would allow us to build on the foundation that had been

established. The following year (2006) you elected others with the same intentions and the remaining board members bought into the program. The changes and accomplishments were definitely a "we" program involving eighteen board members as well as the support of shareowners.

Our first change was to improve our financial position. Previously the Board had received permission from our bank to use 50% of share sales for operating expense while spending over \$17,000/year on loan interest. We committed 100% of share sales to loan principle and added some funds from savings to retire our debt in March, 2007. Since then share sales have only been used to construct our clubhouse addition. After spending \$500,000 for the addition, we have still increased our savings by nearly \$200,000 with no increase in maintenance fees.

Continued on page 4

Be Informed..Watch Channel 195..Sandalwoods TV Station

Sandalwood Park Homeowners. Inc. **300 Sandpiper Drive** Venice, Florida 34285 Resident Owned Community for persons 55 years of age and older **Office Number** 485-3646 In an Emergency Call 911 SANDALWOOD MANAGEMENT STAFF Marietta Jones–Office Manager **Charlie Kane -Maintenance** SANDALWOOD PARK HOMEOWNERS, INC. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** Carl Van Gilst (2013) President Joe Cromwell (2013) Vice President Carl Griffith (2015) Secretary Dan Hutchinson (2015) Treasurer Regina Fortin (2015) Sandra Marsocci (2014) Mitch Watson (2013) Norm Vandenbusche (2014) **Al Burns** (2014) come all..... Appointed by the board: Marietta Jones - Assistant Secretary The Sandalwood Board of Directors has the responsibility of

administrating the wishes of our shareholders. Contact any board member with your concerns or



suggestions and they will act in the best interest of the park. Written comments may be sent to the office or e-mailed to vangilst@maplenet.net.

SANDALWOOD NEWSLETTER STAFF

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SANDALWOOD ACTIVITIES CLUB, INC. President – Carmen Wallin Vice President – Pam Brown Secretary – Susan Smith Treasurer – Judee Sunzere Barbara Hinkle Jane Reed Gil Weidemiller

WEDNESDAY IS GAME NIGHT Do you like to play cards?



Come to the clubhouse on Wednesday evening and join the fun!

Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier!

BINGO! Tuesday & Friday 7 PM So fun...try your luck.



Come one,

Leave all your troubles at home, join your Neighbors at the clubhouse and have a good time!!!

Sandalwood TV Station Tune in to Channel 195 on your TV for Sandalwood information and updates.

Roger Bliss of 350 Longwood Drive is the person who enters all materials for the station. Forms to use for submitting information are available in the office.



ANNUAL MEETING Thursday, February 14 2:00 PM WHY GO?

- This is the one and only meeting where shareowners have a vote!
- With three candidates for three openings, the election is cut and dried. But, you can meet the new Board members.
- Hear the accomplishments of the past year and ratify Board actions.
- Hear the report of Sandalwood Activities Club
- Vote to waive reserves and audit saving thousands of dollars. We must have a quorum for this.

Our guest speaker (David Dignam, President of Key Agency) promises to provide some very useful information about mobile home insurance and the state of the industry. He'll answer our questions on who should be insured, should (or can) we include wind coverage, what can we expect, and whatever's bugging you.

Find out who the new officers are since two are retiring.

COFFEE AND COOKIES – YES!

SUPERIOR VAPOR BARRIER

Presidents Message continued from page 1

Our rules had been enforced by letters from attorneys threatening eviction. I remember receiving one for a violation which I did not know was a rule. Persons actually toured the park looking for violations. We now operate with a "Problem Solving Committee" where reported rules violations are handled in an appropriate and confidential manner to solve the problem without embarrassment. Sometimes volunteers are even recruited to correct a problem. Attorney letters are a last resort.

Park rules can be and are changed by Board action. A master set of rules is now kept on the office computer so any new sets passed out include all revisions.

I remember when board meetings were a shouting match between Board members and Shareowners. People came to meetings to witness the fireworks. Our policy now provides for Shareowners to speak on agenda items and followed by board discussion and action. People now come for coffee and cookies and to see the board members perform their duty.

I also remember after annual meetings the new board would retire to a back room and conduct a battle to choose new officers. We now ask the Shareowners to stay and observe the orderly process in front of them.

An asset which we have all valued is preservation of our open spaces. This was previously done by arbitrary policy developed by committee. We changed the rules to increase side yard setback from 5 ft to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft and to limit maximum width of a home and carport to 44 ft. We also abandoned improper use of suggested inaccurate lot dimensions in an obsolete prospectus in favor of guidelines in OUR prospectus.

We also developed a procedure with proper documentation for Shareowners to allow use of their homes by family or friends. It includes responsibility for informing of rules and signature of a Board member.

I do recall an Annual meeting that had to be repeated because we did not have a quorum in attendance or by Proxy. We have solved that problem by providing a Proxy form and return envelope with the meeting notice.

Sandalwood Activities Club was once treated as a nuisance stepchild receiving little support from Sandalwood Park Homeowners, Inc. We now consider SAC as a sister organization and support them financially and with office assistance. This has resulted in a major increase in quantity and quality activities. Our biggest change has been increased cooperation among residents with differing opinions to cooperate with neighbors for improved comradery in our community. It has truly become a friendly, happy place.

We've even figured out how to allow golf carts and small scooters in our park and allow small boat storage in carports during the summer.

Our environment has allowed us to add amenities to our park. The major improvement has been a much needed \$500,000 clubhouse addition and renovation. It came about by great cooperation among Shareowners with differing ideas but a common goal. We obviously got what we wanted as I have heard nothing but positive comments about the finished product.

We recently added a Pavilion which we expect to find many uses. It definitely adds to the appearance of our park.

Our pool was renovated in 2007 at a cost of \$71,000. This included a new liner and brick pavers.

We have resurfaced all park roads at a cost of \$180,000 and have also resurfaced Cortina Rd. and added a sidewalk/bike path. This greatly improves the appearance and safety of our property.

We've developed "Veteran's Park" which flies both American and Canadian flags while honoring Veterans of any country.

We have improved relations with Venice Isle Estates and share in some events.

We even revolutionized Bingo, SAC's most popular activity. We replaced the old, antiquated, Bingo machine with big screen computer technology.

I reviewed my first letter to SPH Shareowners in March, 2006. My expectations have been exceeded! I hope yours have as well. I thank you all for a very enjoyable and rewarding experience.

On February 14 we will have some new board members and a new President. I challenge them to use our past to avoid returning to policies which we have outgrown. Instead, improve on what we have passed on to your charge. Sandalwood has been declared a "great place to live", you can make it better!

Carl Van Gilst

Save the date and your "Stuff"



"Heads Up" Ladies, the semi-annual Rummage and Bake Sale date is February 23th

"NEW" LUNCH WILL BE SERVED WITH

- Kogele Hot dogs
- Chili Dogs
- Snacks and Pop

Collect all that "stuff" that you haven't used in years and make your "junk" someone else's "treasure".

We all know that Sandalwood has some of the best bakers anywhere, so get out that favorite recipe and lets make this bake sale the best ever.



DATE: SAT. FEB 23 '13 TIME: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm WEATHER: RAIN or SHINE

"NEW" Presale for Park Residents only on Friday, February 22 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

If you plan to have a Carport/Yard Sale contact Gail Hixon (483-3512) for further information

Bring your donations for the rummage sale to the Sandpiper Room at the Clubhouse **<u>early</u>** on Friday, February 22th.

For pickup call Donna Eckman (740-369-3105) or Connie Bressler (412 3911) before February 16th. (*NO Clothing or shoes*). Bring bake sale donations <u>early</u> Saturday morning.

This is the major fundraiser event for SAC and your help and donations are much appreciated!.

For bake and rummage sale information call Loretta Demcher 485 7842 or July Peterson at 486 1097 .

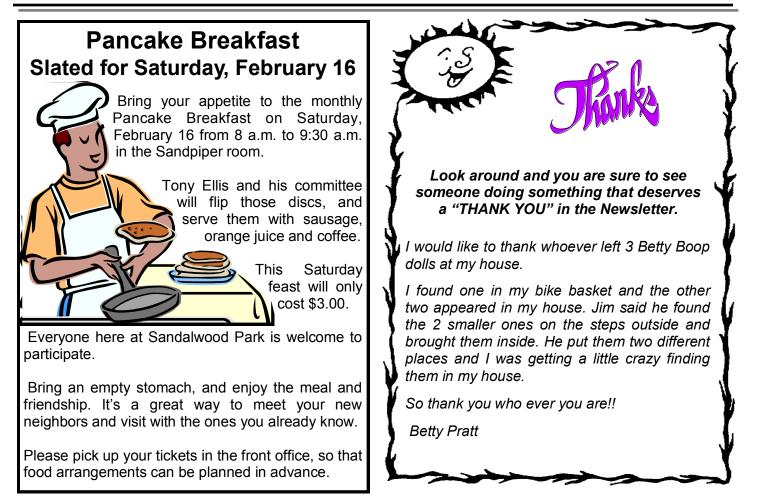
SAC Initiates New Members And Thanks Others

With regrets and many thanks, the SAC says thank you to the three members leaving the board this year.

Lois Cottrell has been a wonderful member, always assisting in events and covering for all of us as a year-round resident. Barbara Moore has donated her time in many events, decorating and donating food for years. A farewell and appreciation goes to Arlene Harrison as well, as she takes a leave to return to Canada for a short time. People like these are hard to replace.

We are fortunate that three new members have come forward and have agreed to help fill the void, and add their expertise and time to SAC 2013.

Welcome to Barbara Hinkle, Susan Smith and Jane Reed. We look forward to a smoothly run social year with all your ideas and helping hands. Good Luck to everyone!



ADVANCED MOBILE HOME SYSTEMS

SANDALWOOD PARK HOMEOWNERS, INC. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 09, 2013

All present stood for the pledge of allegiance

Absent Dan Hutchinson

- Minutes of Dec.12, 2012 approved by the board

Reports of Officers:-

- Treasurers report approved as presented
- Carl Griffith introduced Robert Jenne, Lucille Mitton and Larry Reed candidates for Board
- Carl VanGilst expressed importance of attending the Annual meeting

Committee Reports:

Unfinished Business:

- Carl VanGilst informed all that the deep fryer request would not be approved due to insurance issues.
- Carl Griffith explained concept of all board members inspecting homes for safety/maintenance
- Carl VanGilst reminded every one of the Financial Seminar on Jan. 16 @ 9:00 a.m.

- Norm Vandenbusche presented 3 bids for sealing of roads inside park.

Motion by: Vandenbusche/Burns to accept bid of \$26,500.00 from Advanced Asphalt to seal park roads this summer. **Passed**

- Norm Vandanbusche reminded everyone that Cortina would be closed starting Mon. Jan 14 for about a week due to repaving

- Sandra Marsocci discussed maintenance in the summer and every one needs a caretaker on file in the office

New Business:

- Mitch Watson reminded all of Newcomers Party on Wed. Jan 23 @ 2:00 p.m. Board approved cost not to exceed \$ 350.00. Sign-up sheet posted.

- Carl Griffith investigating with Office Depot, best & cost to put wireless router in clubhouse. Board approved cost not to exceed \$200.00.

- Charlie Kane reported there is 1400 ft. alone Cortina for hedge of bougainvillea's. \$ 6,200 for 232 plants will address at Feb. board meeting.

Meeting adjourned by President Carl VanGilst

Next Meeting:

Agenda: Wed. Feb. 06, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m. (Sandpiper room) Board: Wed. Feb. 13, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. (Sandpiper room)

Respectfully Submitted

Carl Griffith, Secretary

February 2013

FLORIDA ANCHOR & BARRIER

	SANDA	SANDALWOOD PARK FEBRUARY 2013	PARK F	EBRUAI	RY 2013	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					F	2 Michigan/Ohio Dinner
m	4	5 SAC Agenda 10am	6 SPH Agenda 9am	2	ω	9 Valentine Potluck Happy Hour 5:30pm Dinner 6pm
10 Crystal Gale Show 7pm	5	12 SAC Meeting 10am	13 SPH Meeting 10am	14 ANNUAL MEETING 2pm	5	16 Pancake Breakfast 8am—9:30 am
17	18 Movie & Dinner	19	20	24	22 NO BINGO	23 Rummage and Bake Sale
24 Spittin' Image Concert 7pm	25	26	27	28		
	Huff & Puff 9am Rhythmettes 4pm	Lunch 1pm Bingo 7pm	Huff & Puff 9am Poker & Cards 7pm	Breakfast at Perkins 8:30am Euchre 7pm	Huff & Puff 9am Computer Club 10am Bingo 7pm	Coffee & Rolls 9am

SANDALWOOD PARK

SANDALWOOD PARK





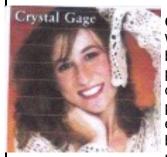
Thank you.



Fortunately for all members and friends of Sandalwood Park, we have Grammy nominees coming to entertain for minimum costs to us.

These extraordinary talented artists have agreed to visit us in the Sandpiper Room on February 10 with **Crystal Gage**, and on February 24 with the **Spittin' Image**, an identical twin duo Brian and Blain. The high-energy personalities and fast-paced showmanship displayed are infectious.

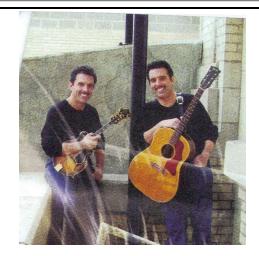
They are both part of SAC's 2013 Concert Series, with ticket availability in the front office.



Crystal Gage is from Windsor, Ontario and was born to perform. Singer, performer, and even comedian, all define this professional vocalist. Her entertaining sense of humor bonds any audience with her passion for music.

She has five CD's already released, and has performed at Disney (cont)

World, Fan Fair week in Nashville, London Country Jam and at every venue in between. She's a can't miss talent!



Then **Spittin' Image** hits the park stage two weeks later.

They are identical twins that are two of the most versatile, fun-loving performers that you have ever seen.

They continuously entertain with outstanding musical skills and a terrific variety of fine-tuned comedy routines. Listen to their talents on the mandolin, harmonica, keyboards, guitar and their vocals.

They have appeared in numerous Nightclubs, Resorts and Festivals. Come and enjoy an evening right here at Sandalwood Park.



Individual tickets are made on a first come, first serve basis for \$15 each show. Check for available seating in the front office.



Aardvaark Pest Control

VALENTINES FISH & FLICK Features A New Piano Demo

On Saturday, February 9th, , our , new *Fish & Flick* night will have a special piano demo by the company of Pritchard's Pianos and Organs. The SAC committee has purchased a wonderful Kawai digital piano, and everyone will be serenaded



with a musical demo to hear the clear, different sounds of the new instrument. It was bought with a five (5) year warranty for parts and labor, and is available for your enjoyment in the Sandpiper room.

With the remarkable cooking by Carmen Wallen and Steve Simmons, this year's fish will be prepared by our chief chefs' new recipes, frying a moist and wonderful fish delicacy for all to enjoy.

Then everyone can sit back and relax to enjoy the evening's movie.

Thanks to Bill Weidmiller for organizing this event. The whole evening will begin at 5:30 for BYOB cocktails, with dinner beginning at 6:00 per usual. Please remember to bring your own plastic plates and service utensils. Coffee and pot luck desserts will be available.



Wanted Bridge Partner

Male or female Call John Dane 484-9929,





Double Chocolate Chip Cookies from Crisco



- ¾ stick Crisco baking sticks or ¾ cup Crisco all-vegetable shortening
- 1 ¼ cups firmly packed light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 large egg
- 1 ³⁄₄ cups all purpose flour
- 1 teas. Salt
- ³⁄₄ teas. Baking soda
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecans (optional)

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Beat shortening and brown sugar in large bowl with an electric mixer at medium speed until light and fluffy.

Beat in milk, vanilla and egg.

Stir in flour, salt and baking soda.

Blend in chocolate chips and nuts.

Drop by rounded measuring Tbs. 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheets.

Bake 8-10 minutes for chewy cookies or 11 to 13 minutes for crisp cookies. Cool 2 minutes on cookie sheet. Transfer cookies to cooling rack.

TIP: If nuts are omitted, add an additional ½ cup semi-sweet chocolate chips.

Makes 3 dozen cookies.

Be Informed..Watch Channel 195..Sandalwood TV



Tap into the electricity of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Tampa, Florida, featuring all your favorite game machines.! You will receive a Players Club Card to us whenever you play to earn valuable points for free rooms, meals and great gifts. Enjoy your many choices for lunch

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Cost: \$20.00 Per Person You Receive: \$30.00 in Machine Play, \$5.00 Meal Voucher & Round-Trip Transportation.

Sign up sheet in clubhouse.

Depart Sandalwood at 9:30 AM Depart Casino at 4:15 PM

Make checks payable to SAC and give to Alice Fitzpatrick at 346 Longwood Dr. Front Door

Sandalwood Activities Committee

Minutes of January 15, 2013 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: President Carmen Wallin; Vice-President Arlene Harrison; Secretary Pam Brown; Treasurer Judee Sunzere, Lois Cottrill, Barb Moore and Gil Weidemiller,.

A letter of resignation from Arlene Harrison was read and accepted with regrets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS;

*Bingo-Lois says all is going great

*Games-Carmen and Harley-Lots of tables and also going great

*Shuffleboard-Bob Koons-Haven't started yet, but looking forward to it

*Saturday Breakfast & Tues. Lunch-Sylvia says this week at Gold Rush

*Huff & Puff-Alice, great attendance

*Perkins breakfast-George says still not well attended

*Euchre-Arlene- 4-5 tables and is going great

*Movies-Gil says none in Jan, but Feb. will start with the Fish & Flick

COMING EVENTS:

*Johnny Roberts-7:00 pm Thursday, Jan. 17th. Need help to set up chairs.

*Pancake breakfast-Sat. Jan. 19th from 8:00 to 9:30.

*New England Dinner-Lucille Mitten-Sat. Jan. 19th. 5:00 cocktails and will have great entertainment

*Allie Dane's memorial-Sun. Jan. 20th at 2:00. Snow birds please bring cookies.

*Newcomers' Party-Barb Hinkle, 2:00 pm, Wed. Jan. 23rd. Still getting organized

*Casino Trip-Wed. Jan. 30th. Alice says full and has waiting list.

OLD BUSINESS:

*New Years' Eve party-Wants ideas on entertainment and would it be more cost effective to have a deejay or other forms of entertainment. Cost per plate for Dinner was \$7.00/person. Carmen asked for \$200. For Cathy this year but board voted to give her \$500. Next year she is proposing Pot Roast, chicken, salad and dessert.

*Piano purchase-We have a new piano and at the Feb. Pot Luck dinner, Pritchards will come and give a demonstration on it and set up a schedule to give piano lessons to anyone interested. \$44./hr.

*Spag. Dinner-Was a great time and kudos to Harley and his crew for all the work they did. Also, the singer that Harley got for us during dinner was WONDERFUL. He gave SAC \$262 from the dinner. Thank you Harley.

*Harley will report Sat. gift donations to treasurer on a monthly basis.

*George Taylor is resigning from chairman of the Holiday Dinners. He has done this for the last 22 years. He will be missed. We need a person to take this over.

NEW BUSINESS:

*Super bowl party- Carl Van Gilst is hosting one at the Club House. It will start at 4:00. Bring own food and drink. He will have games etc.

*March 2014 we will be having a dinner dance celebrating the 5-year anniversary of the new Club House. Sonny & Sable will be the entertainment and Barb Moore and Carl Van Gilst will host this.

*Next years concert series- We are looking into having some that been here before. No one was able to attend the showcase prior to selection this year.

*Valentines Day or Feb. 15th we would like to provide cup cakes for the Bingo players as they are a big part of our money making events.

*Insurance Seminar-Sat., Jan. 19th at 9:00

*Computer class every Friday at 10:00. Need more people. Very informative.

Continued from previous page

The slate of officers for next year was presented; Pam Brown, Susan Smith, Jane Reed and Barbara Hinkle. Since there were 4 positions open, Pam Brown cast one ballot for the slate and the election was closed.

Post Meeting: The Board selected as follows:

President-Carmen Wallin

Vice-President- Pam Brown

Secretary - Susan Smith

Treasurer - Judee Sunzere

Directors: Barbara Hinkle, Jane Reed and Gil Weidemiller

COMFORT COVER

Meeting adjourned at 11:00

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Brown Secretary



Professional Plumbing & Design 1/4

ALL WEATHER

Dave Cronk

BUG GUYS

MOBILE HOME DEPOT