

The *Royal Harbor* Pilot
ASSOCIATION

Fall 2006

On the Internet at <http://royalharbor.naples.net>

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President's Message:

Well, we had the kind of summer we all hope for - NO hurricanes! We hope this issue finds all of you well and glad to be back in Naples.

Your association has also had a fairly quiet summer but we did have someone steal the aluminum letters off the Marlin entrance sign! We don't know if it was just a high school prank or they wanted to sell the aluminum. In either case we have replaced them with solid plastic letters which will be harder to remove and don't have any value as a scrap material.

I hope you attended the Halloween trick or treat party on Snook Drive. It is fun to see the kids (and adults) enjoying themselves.

Your board has been working with the City to start improvements to Sandpiper Street. You will start to see some of this at the US 41 end as the new condo project develops. We have also had two drainage swales in the neighborhood rebuilt and more will be done in the future as the City allocates funds. We have classified them based on condition and the worse ones will be done first.

Your board will be losing members soon and we need to identify people who are interested in serving. We particularly would like to have people with specific backgrounds: such as an attorney, insurance experience, accountant, web design, writing skills etc. If you are interested, or wish to recommend someone, please call me at 793-5155.

Renewal notices will be coming out shortly. Unfortunately we have had to increase our dues from \$35 to \$50. We don't like doing this even though we have one of the lowest dues of any association in the City. Some of the factors that required an increase are increased costs for almost everything like printing, postage, electrical (lights the entrances) etc. Also we have had requests to go back to the spiral bound directory, and to improve the Pilot. So we hope you will bear with us and rejoin. We do try to be frugal with your money.

We would like to increase our membership; so if you have any neighbors who aren't members please encourage them to join.

Fraser Smithson

Design Concept for Sandpiper/U.S.41 Approved

Drawings of the proposed design for the intersection of Sandpiper Street and U.S.41 were exhibited at the RH Association Board November meeting by officials of Antaramian Developers and City of Naples. The concept calls for twin "mini-parks" flanking the intersection and a paver block walkway providing pedestrian access on both sides of the street.



The plan includes park benches, extensive landscaping and treescaping, as well as attractive signage. In addition to identifying the entrance to City of Naples and Naples Bay Resorts, your Board voted to have Royal Harbor included on the sign.

The drawing at left, one of those shown at the meeting shows the overall design.

Work is expected to begin in February, 2007, with completion slated for May.

In the meantime, as indicated by Don Wirth's report, we continue to work with City Officials and Oyster Bay to develop a plan to extend the streetscaping for the full length of Sandpiper Street.

Royal Harbor Annual Meeting Set

The Annual Meeting of the Royal Harbor Association has been scheduled for **January 10, 2007, at 7:00 PM in the Morris Center (Cambrier Park, 8th St. and 8th Ave.)** Mayor Bill Barnett, City Manager Dr. Bob Lee, and Officer Ralph Anthony will be in attendance to answer any questions, as will Committee Heads from the Association Board.

Your Pet - Someone Else's Pest?

We still get reports of dogs whose owners are in violation of City requirements. **You must clean up after your dog, (Even when nobody is looking), and walked dogs must be on a leash.**



Haldeman's Creek Dredging goes Forward

This project had been funded by a grant and also by the county "ad valorem tax" and in some part by the city. The part up in the air when the Royal Harbor Association got involved was the part where the city was to participate in the funding.

Arguments were made on both sides regarding this. The city said that they should not have to kick in as they already paid the "ad valorem" tax to the county just like the rest of the county and that is all that they should have to pay. They claimed they were paying twice.

The county said this was a drainage project, not a dredging project, and would then require the "city" to participate in it when it crossed the city/county line. They claim that the "city" knew all along they were expected to participate in the funding and it had been an ongoing discussion.

At crunch time, when the barge was getting ready to deploy and start digging out the creek the county had decided to dredge up to the bend where the creek enters Royal Harbor and the city. If the city wanted to finish the project they would have to pay for it.

Several members of the Association attended the Council workshop and spoke out contending that this was a big mistake and the project left unfinished would cause a navigation hazard. The city then agreed to participate in the funding. However, they fell short of funding the project in the entirety. For some reason several of the Council members voted to "short fund" the amount requested. This would still leave the project unfinished.

Mr. Antaramian, the developer, agreed to pay the balance making the project complete. He is working on a Haldeman's Creek project and felt it was in his best interest to complete the project.

So, after all this, the project is underway and the residents of Royal Harbor should have a good, cleared path up the river to the Marina and down the river to the Bay. The path will be the one close to the shoreline and NOT through the markers. This should be over by the end of the year. Then, we are told, the redredging of the Royal Harbor Canals is a possibility.

Thank your association for taking the time to meet with the Council and with County to help in resolving these issues.

Waterway committee,
Dave Capito, Chairman
Terry Forshier

Landscape & Civic Improvements Committee—Don Wirth

Swale Project:

The City plans to replace the deteriorating concrete swales in Royal Harbor over a period of years. It is likely that 2-3 will be replaced each year based on available funding. The primary objective is to improve the quality of water in Naples Bay by removing the concrete and replacing with sod. This will increase the percolation and reduce entry of pollutants and silt into the Bay.

Additionally, removal will eliminate need for expensive repair and potential liability. If a resident has a deteriorating swale and is interested in removal of the concrete swale in the easement, contact George Archibald in the Public Works Department.

Entrances at Dolphin and Marlin:

The City has committed to replace the flowers at both entrances every six months. The two dead palms in the Marlin median will be replaced in the near future.

Sandpiper Streetscape Master Plan

The City, Royal Harbor and Oyster Bay Boards of Directors have spent five years discussing how to proceed with a streetscape master plan for Sandpiper. The objective is to develop a plan for improving the streetscape the total length of the street. The City's work program includes funding to complete the master plan for the project in '07. Actual construction funding is to follow.

City staff has promised to meet with affected residents on Sandpiper concerning details. Possible design elements include pavers, landscaping and lighting.

It is expected that actual improvements will be initiated in late '07-early '08.

Entrance Naples Bay Resort—Davis and Highway 41 at Sandpiper

Improvements to the public right-of-way are proceeding. Improvements include sidewalks, trees and other landscaping on the east and west sides of the street south to the bridge. There will be improvements to the existing park and a new park added on the other side of the street.

Halloween Parade a Great Success

For the second straight year the Halloween Parade held by the Royal Harbor Association was enjoyed by both youngsters and those not-so-young.

With weather that was worthy of a travel ad, the early evening event combined colorful costumes, childrens' laughter, candy goodies and flashing digital cameras to good effect.



A Gaggle of Gremlins and Guardians goes for Goodies

this is an article from the Naples Daily News.....

So simple it was scary

Editor, Daily News:

The second annual Halloween party for Royal Harbor children was organized by Nancy Lockwood.

Snook Drive residents were asked to open up their driveways for everyone in the Royal Harbor area to bring their little ones and enjoy the fun. What a great success this was.

Trick-or-treat hours were from 5:30 to 7p.m. and there were over 100 trick-or-treaters because I had treats for 90 children and ran out of candy by 6:25.

It was great seeing the kids in their costumes and parents walking, talking and socializing with neighbors while keeping their eyes on their children.

I hope more small neighborhoods in the Naples area will follow this trick-or-treat idea because it worked well, was safe, everyone had a great time and people were able to meet their neighbors and see the neighborhood children.

Hats off to Nancy Lockwood. Great job. It brought back neighborhood fun to Halloween and parents didn't have to take their children to private parties or to the mall or stores for their children to trick-or-treat.

Parents even had a very enjoyable time.

Jennifer Rector, Naples



Fair-haired Princess strides off with her loot

Recycling News

All of us have been wondering about what are the City's plans on recycling. As we told you in the last newsletter, a test was run on Tarpon road using the large rolling containers like they use in the County. This was very successful and the City Staff planned to recommend to Council that they go with these (or stay with the old blue containers if this is your choice) new containers when they negotiated a new contract with Waste Management last July.

Well, Waste Management said they didn't want to bid on recycling pickup contract! The City Staff proposed to the City Council that the City buy their own trucks and take on recycling collection.

This was approved by Council.

At this time trucks are on order and a new person was recently hired to be in charge of the project.

Therefore, we can expect it will be some time before the City takes over – in the interim Waste Management continues as before on a month to month contract.

GARAGE SALE

Because the Garage Sale was successful this past January we are planning to have another one January 2008, With a full year to set aside those items you no longer use or need, but are still useful, we expect the next event to be an even bigger success. Thanks to all of you who participated in the buying and selling.....nancy lockwood

Vandalism in Paradise

This may be the season of "Good Will", but the message hasn't reached vandals who prey on the efforts of others. The most recent incident - within days of the hanging of Season's decorations on the Royal Harbor entrance sign, the wreaths were stolen by vandals. This site was the location of two previous incidents when the sign was defaced by theft of letters and the decorative ship's wheel. We hate to think that the "perps" were some of our own, but that's a possibility. If you know anything about any of these incidents, or see "suspicious" activity in our community, please notify Officer Anthony at 213-4864 or 269-0159. Names of informants will be held confidential.

Royal Harbor's Community Police Officer page seven

The City of Naples Police Department assigns specific officers to each neighborhood to coordinate and communicate with residents in that neighborhood. We have been fortunate to have Officer Ralph Anthony as our Community Officer for the last two years.



Officer Ralph Anthony

We thought you'd like to know more about this very talented and friendly guy.

Ralph is believe it our not a true "Florida Native", born and raised in Punta Gorda. After high school he served 7 1/2 years in the U.S. Army artillery. After he decided to come back to civilian life, he attended the Sarasota Police Academy. Upon graduation, in 1994, he was hired by the Naples Police Department.

He served his first three years as a Patrol Officer and then became a Canine Officer for the next nine years. At that time he was promoted to the Community Officer assignment and assigned to our neighborhood.

Officer Anthony's wife, Grace is a Naples native, and they have a 6 year old son named Tevin.

Ralph has helped with the Trick or Treat Party both years (eats his share of treats!) and we had the pleasure of him bringing his wife and son to celebrate with us this year.

Officer Anthony attends every one of our board meetings, bringing us up to date on any crime in our area and what we can do about it. He is always ready to help with other disturbances in the neighborhood and has a knack of handling these in a courteous but firm manner.

If at any time you need police help (if it is an emergency call 911) or advice feel free to call him at 213-4864 or 269-0159. If you see him driving through the neighborhood wave him down and chat with him.

New Speed Limits in City of Naples

Returnees from up north are frequently surprised by changes that have occurred during their absence, some good, others bad, still others just different,

You may recall that last year, in answer to requests from residents, the City posted a 25 MPH speed limit on Snook Drive. The change was so well-received that City Council, at their September 6th meeting, voted to reduce speed limits on most residential streets to 25MPH. Other newly modified speed limits have been posted in many places around town. (e.g. 30 MPH signs have been posted on 9th street south of Central Ave.) So -be on the lookout. Don't let these changes catch you by surprise via the flashing blue light!

Membership Report

The membership renewal is underway for the 2007 year. We hope to get everyone in Royal Harbor listed as a member this year. Plans are underway to do two mailings to residents and then follow up by board members to ask for everyone's participation.

So... Why should you join the Association?

Your neighborhood association speaks for you to the city and the county. Every month the city of Naples sends a manager and neighborhood police officer to our association meetings to give us information from the city and to carry our ideas, comments and requests back to the city. With out this exchange you might not have the subdivision you see today.

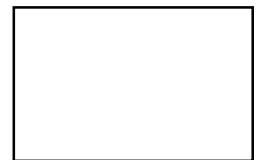
Every month the Royal Harbor Association is represented in a city wide (and a separate county wide) assembly of association presidents to discuss and share common problems solutions, and things of interest. This exchange and sharing helps get our voice to the elected officials making all these "codes" rules and regulations that affect our neighborhoods.

No, we do not take controversial stands on issues like Speed Zones on the Bay or inject ourselves into City problems like the Dolphin Street "chord rule" controversy. What we do is try to get issues like resolving the dredging of Haldeman's Creek to the Bay done, to encourage the city in getting landscaping done on Sandpiper Street. We try to get our Entry signs redone and landscaped and swales replaced or repaired to just name a few of last year's projects. We try to encourage a community feeling by having the all Royal Harbor garage Sale, the "Trick or Treat" night and the Community picnic.

Coming up are the new proposed regulations on renting.. both boat slips and homes, the Sandpiper street landscaping issue, a city-wide tree replacement program, the Naples Bay project and sea wall proposal, and on and on. Our members are heard on these issues by the board members reporting to the city. The more members we have, the more the city listens. We need every owner to be a member.

Please join up now, only \$50.00 a year and that covers the entry signs (we paid for those) the lights and irrigation there, the holiday decorations, mailings to members, the membership booklets, the newcomer packages, and much more..

Terry Forshier..Membership Chairman



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