Players Journal

The official newspaper of the Sawgrass Players Club Homeowners Association

www.SawgrassPlayersClub.org • VOL. 12 Issue 2 • SUMMER 2019

Board member spotlight

Meet Derek Sprague, new Class C board member

By Martie Thompson

Golf has always been in Derek Sparague's blood. He grew up in Malone, NY, on the first hole of the Malone Golf Club's East Course, went on to become a PGA of America pro (the club professionals) and now works at the PGA TOUR as general manager of TPC Sawgrass. Beginning in late June, he added Class C board member of the Sawgrass Players Club association to his resume.

"I have some board experience," Sprague said. "I was on the Malone School Board for 10 years and also was president of the PGA of America in 2015 – 2016."

Sprague graduated with a bachelor's degree in marketing from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va. His first job out of college was as general manager of Malone Golf Club, his old home course. He served in this role for 25 years.

"The club took a chance on a 21-year-old kid," Sprague said. "I guess it paid off."

In 2016, he took a position with the PGA TOUR managing the Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City, NJ. Sprague said this course hosts a PGA TOUR event every other year, the Presidents Cup, which gave him good experience for his next job with the TOUR, here in Ponte Vedra Beach. He became general manager of TPC Sawgrass in January 2018.

Sprague said he likes this club because it reminds him of Malone Golf Club: both have 36 holes, are semi-private and are connected with a resort (in Ponte Vedra Beach, Sawgrass Marriott).

"This is a good fit for me," Sprague said. "Plus, I like that there's no snow in Ponte Vedra Beach."

Photo courtesy Derek Sprague
Derek Sprague is the new Class C board member for the Sawgrass Players Club Association.

Sprague said his daily job entails overseeing his very talented team of 350 employees at the club. He makes sure that all of his department heads have the resources to do their jobs and acts as a liaison for the PGA TOUR, his team and THE PLAYERS' team. Setting strategy with the management teams to ensure all are in alignment to meet the needs of members, guests, the TOUR and the tournament set him in good stead for balancing the needs of the different parties the Sawgrass Players Club Association represents.

"I've yet to have my first meeting of the Master Board," Sprague said. "But I plan to listen to the needs of the association and balance that with the needs of the homeowners and businesses. I believe good communication is important and most of the time this can resolve any differences."

Sprague is uniquely qualified for his upcoming stint on the Master Board as he is also a homeowner. He resides with wife Jennifer on Seven Mile Drive.

"I look forward to learning more about the role of the homeowners association/master board and how it relates to the sub associations," Sprague said. "I also look forward to working with the other board members to ensure the master board does what it can to make sure the residents are looked after."

Register now for new website

By Irene Lombardo

Don't miss a thing! Register now for our new Sawgrass Players Club website and provide us with your email.

Because we were unable to transfer resident logins and passwords from our previous website service provider, residents need to register on the new site and create a new login and password in order to use the resident pages.

It is extremely important that you sign up and provide your email address. Without it, we cannot contact you in a timely manner to provide emergency information. This is particularly important during hurricane season.

It is extremely important that you sign up and provide your email address. Without it, we cannot contact you in a timely manner to provide emergency information. This is particularly important during hurricane season.

To register:

Go to www.sawgrassplayersclub.org and click the Resident Login/Registration menu.

New website cont. on pg. 2

President's Comments

By TJ Welsh

As the new president of the Sawgrass Players Club Association, I wish to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Ray Navidi. Health issues prevented him from continuing as president and serving this community that he loves and has worked for so diligently. As vice president, I stepped in as acting president a few months ago until my election to this position last month.

Ray's engineering expertise and experience have served this community in many ways that cannot begin to be appreciated. His biggest concerns upon assuming the presidency were two-fold: first, he has shepherded the work begun by both past presidents, John Flynn and Gerry Klingman, regarding the Oak Bridge Golf Course transition along with countless other Players Club community members.

As of the writing of this column, it would appear that the final hurdle has been cleared between all parties concerning the lawsuit and has been approved by the St. Johns County Commission. We will be providing additional information to all our homeowners regarding the next steps for the golf course and also the sale/development of the other parcels as agreed upon. The master Operation, Management and Waterways Committee (OMW), Architectural Control Committee (ACC) and the Golf Course Transition Team (tasked with oversight of the actual escrowed monies designated for golf course improvement) will all be working in concert to provide the necessary oversight on this project. Thankfully we are blessed with the skills and business acumen of many volunteers on our various committees to aid your board of directors.

Ray Navidi's second area of focus concerned the waterways, dams, weirs and pumping capacity throughout the Players Club community. We have taken much needed steps to provide proper funding to begin the surveying, overhaul and, where necessary, rebuilding of this vital infrastructure that protects this community in extreme rain and hurricane-level events

President's Comments cont. on pg. 2

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New website cont. from pg. 1

Screenshots courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association
Public page of website

At the Login/Register page, click "Register."

A new page, Register/Request a Login, will appear. Complete the form following the instructions provided, then click "Submit."

A statement should appear in place of the form thanking you and stating that the application is being reviewed. Once the account has been approved, you should then receive an approval notification email.

Please be patient. We have many residents trying to register at the same time. For security purposes we are manually verifying that each registrant is a resident. Therefore, it may take some time to process your request. Once you receive the approval email, you are ready to access the site using the username and password you provided.

The website provides important updates and documents that you can download, such as Architectural Control Applications and information, a House Check form for Security when you are away, committee meeting dates and minutes, the Property Owner and Resident Guide, governing documents, a resident directory, information on who to call for answers, copies of "Players Journal" and the Sawgrass Players Club Women's Association newsletter, "Connect!" and so much more.

You will also be able to authorize guests on-

Resident page of website

line through the Visitor Gate Access, which is on the lower right side of the website. Please note, however, that the Visitor Gate Access website is separately managed and requires a separate login. You can always go directly to that site by logging on to http://gatelogeight.com/tpc_020.

We hope you find the new website easy to read and navigate. Give us your feedback. We want to know what you think of the site and if you find it easy to use.

President's Comments cont. from pg. 1

that will eventually revisit this area. As we all know, a 35-year old community, much like our own homes, requires constant upgrading in order to maintain and stay ahead of potential issues. Fortunately, some of these projects will be able to be accomplished during the revitalization of the golf course which will be under construction at the same time.

In closing I would also like to acknowledge the passing of former board member Dan MacDonald. He was a hard-working gentleman who will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of working with him.

Be safe and have a happy summer!

Sawgrass Players Club Association Board of Directors 2019

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Oak Bridge Club development to move ahead

By Jeff Miller, Hawks Bay, LLC

The Oak Bridge Club wishes to take this opportunity to update the community on the timeline for the coming positive changes to our club and golf course, and the latest news with respect to the development parcel. There is a growing excitement about what's to come and many of you have asked what's next. Here is the latest:

Lawsuit settlement: We are very happy to report that the lawsuit has been settled. With this matter now behind us, we are marching ahead with the sale/lease of the development parcel as well as the golf course redesign and improvements.

Development parcel sale: The Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra has been granted an option to purchase two acres of commercial property along A1A permitted by the Development Agreement. At this point in time, The Cultural Center is very optimistic that it will exercise the option, which runs until January 2020.

We continue to hold talks with potential buyers with respect to the remainder of the development parcel. We hope to complete a transaction before year end, and we expect the buyer to commence development in mid-2020.

Golf course renovation: We have already begun working diligently with MacCurrach Golf Construction and the design and construction staff at the PGA TOUR about our redesigned course. As many of you know, alternative golf courses are gaining popularity across the nation. The USGA, in fact, is now promoting nine-hole rounds. Rest assured that we are very committed to creating a new and exciting golf experience inside the gates of our community. Golf course construction is currently scheduled to begin around September 2019, with a grand opening of the new course slated for fall 2020.

Oak Bridge pool: We anticipate the Oak Bridge Club pool facility will be vacated by the current tenant, Planet Swim, by the end of this year. We are actively exploring numerous options for the re-use of this site.

PGA. TPC. What's in a name?

By Carol Liittschwager

As you drive every day down our Sawgrass Players Club main drag, you know the street's name — or do you?

What it is will change. What it used to be, will be new again.

Longtimers remember the road as TPC Boulevard before it was ever called PGA Boulevard. Today, with the construction of its new world headquarters here, the PGA TOUR wants its name back.

Like magic, our scenic divided roadway will return to its original name: TPC Boulevard. Watch for it. (Maybe it's already there!)

Photo courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association
PGA TOUR Boulevard will once again be called TPC Boulevard.

The upside is that the PGA TOUR is picking up the tab for the changeover — and we never changed the name of TPC Boulevard on our maps, so we don't have to reprint them. All's well that ends well!

Bicyclists Take Note!

A reminder from the Sawgrass Players Club Association

Safety is everyone's concern.
Bicycles driven at or in excess of 15 mph must be driven on the roadway.
When driven less than 15 mph, bicycles are permitted on Sawgrass Players Club sidewalks; however, pedestrians always have the right of way.
Additionally, when coming up behind a walker or runner, bicyclists should give warning to those individuals on foot to avoid an accident.

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Players Journal is a free quarterly publication distributed via mail to all Sawgrass Players Club property owners. Submission of articles and photographs are received by mail or email, although email to editor@FloridaNewsLine.com is preferred. The writers' opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Florida Newsline. Advertising Rates are available by request.

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Join the Facebook SPC Homeowners site

The Sawgrass Players Club Homeowners group page is the place for residents to connect with what's going on in Sawgrass and with each other. Whether you are looking for a good plumber, need a babysitter or have questions about your neighborhood, group members can help.

Join us!

New board members elected at annual meeting

By Irene Lombardo

At the annual members meeting on June 27, three members were elected to the board of directors: Joseph Adiutori of Cypress Creek, Barbara Prochaska of Oakbridge and Derek Sprague of TPC Sawgrass, which is a Class C member of the Sawgrass Players Club Association. The latter ran unopposed for the Class C seat. Each will serve for three years.

Adiutori is currently treasurer of the Cypress Creek homeowners association. He previously served in various positions on the Marsh Landing Master Association and HOA III boards, including president of both.

Prochaska has been serving on the board since last year. She was appointed to the board at that time to complete the term of Dan MacDonald, who resigned for health reasons. She currently serves as president of the Oakbridge subassociation.

Sprague is general manager of TPC Sawgrass, a position he has held since 2017, and is a resident of Seven Mile Drive. (See accompanying Board Member Spotlight article.)

TJ Welsh opened the meeting. He explained that he has been serving as acting president for two months in the absence of Ray Navidi, who is recovering from a health issue. Welsh also has served as acting chair of the Architectural Control Committee in Navidi's absence. He noted that the committee had reviewed 410 applications during the year and that they and the Operations, Maintenance and Waterways Committee will be intricately involved in any golf course redevelopment.

Controlled Access chair Gerry Klingman noted that golf carts driven by underage children without licenses is an issue that is being addressed. To better control access, the committee instituted a policy as of June 1 requiring vendors and service providers to enter Sawgrass Players Club through the main gate. To use the Solana gate, vendors must purchase an RFID that is valid for only one year. Marsh Landing Management is tightly controlling renter RFID expiration dates, which are tied to their leases. Also, a weekly move in/move out report is used to purge RFIDs of homeowners who have moved.

The new website was the subject of Irene Lombardo's Communications Committee PowerPoint presentation. She discussed the registration process and how residents can control their account. Lombardo expressed the importance and necessity of getting residents to register. Emails are needed so that the association can send out emergency notifications to residents. This is especially critical during hurricane season.

Treasurer Maury Dettmer told the audience that the association's financials are in excellent health. Accounts receivable remain at an all-time low at $15,000 thanks to Marsh Landing Management Company's oversight and an aggressive strategy to recover monies owed. He added that all overaged receivables are legally protected to the maximum extent possible. To maximize income and liquidity, the Finance Committee is laddering certificates of deposit. A new policy also has been instituted to ensure information on accounts, such as signature cards, are current, as this has been an issue in the past.

The Landscape Committee's budget has been largely affected by the pine beetle attack, which is wiping out trees throughout our area. Carole McManus, committee chair, noted that a phased five-year landscape plan was implemented in January with plantings at the Solana gate; however, it is on hold due to the expenditures for pine tree removal.

John Flynn, chairman, and Paul Rushton, co-chairman, of Operations, Maintenance and Waterways, took to the stage to discuss the committee's critical projects. Flynn noted that 14 projects had already been completed this year and that eight remain. The two most recent hurricanes, he said, had prompted the creation of a strategic planning subcommittee to deal with the inadequacies in our system that became apparent during the storms. Problems included diesel overheating, as well as belt and electrical failures. The subcommittee is focused on pump capacity, water flow and water quality. He noted that significant improvements have been made thus far. They are exploring ways to increase pump discharge, repairing aging infrastructure and clearing culverts. A diesel generator is being installed at the Seven Mile Drive pump station in July as a backup should electricity go out during a storm.

Recreation Committee chair Pat Gilberto reviewed the events that have been sponsored during the past year, including a family golf outing, Flicks in the Field, Winterfest and the recent Hoedown held in May. The events are designed to encourage residents to get together in a family atmosphere. He also discussed planned improvements. At the park, this includes surfacing of the basketball court and padding of the basketball hoop poles for safety, a walkway around the perimeter of the park and the addition of a gazebo near the volleyball court. Improvements at Players Pool include an additional shade structure, walkway paver repair and replacing the wading pool with a splash pad.

New board officers elected

Following the annual meeting on June 27, the board of directors held an organizational meeting at which time they reappointed committee chairs and elected officer positions. The officers and other directors for the 2019 – 2020 term are:

TJ Welsh, President

Marc Stearns, Vice President

William Haley, Secretary

Barbara Prochaska, Treasurer

Joseph Adiutori, Director

Mo Binaco, Director

Debbie McWade, Director

Ray Navidi, Director (Inactive)

Derek Sprague, Director

Golf Cart Operators Take Note!

Safety is everyone's concern.

A reminder from the Sawgrass Players Club Association

All golf cart operators must carry a valid driver's license. Parents are responsible to ensure their underage children do not drive golf carts. Citations will be issued to parents of underage children found violating this requirement. Additionally, each person in the golf cart must be seated, and children may not ride in the lap of a driver.

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Neighborhood *News*

Players Park was hopping for the annual Easter egg hunt

The 12th annual Easter egg hunt was held on Friday, April 19, organized by Fawn Mattison-Boyle of Oakbridge. Several youngsters found a golden ticket in their eggs entitling them to a prize basket full of goodies. The prizes were donated by Publix and other local retailers. And, of course, the Easter Bunny made an appearance! What fun!

Photos courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

Vicar's Landing awards scholarships

Photo courtesy Vicar's Landing
Vicar's Landing scholarship recipients.

On May 18, the Vicar's Landing Member Trust awarded a total of $261,500 to 88 employees as part of their annual Scholarship Program, which celebrated its 25th year. Employees who meet certain employment requirements and are recommended by their supervisors are eligible to receive general scholarships of up to $2,500. The awards can be used for a variety of educational purposes.

An additional 23 Special Scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $3,000 were awarded to those employees attending a four-year college or equivalent or postgraduate studies. In addition to the above guidelines, Special Scholarship applicants are required to write an essay and must have very strong supervisor recommendations.
Since its inception, the program has awarded $4.7 million in scholarships to Vicar's Landing employees.

Salt Creek projects moving forward

The Salt Creek Homeowners Association, in conjunction with St. Johns County Utilities Department, recently completed the upgrade and re-piping of the Salt Creek Drive lift station, thus allowing for the completion of the remaining section of new fence along Salt Creek Drive.
The next phase of the project will be the installation of a new electric meter and sprinkler to run along the common area of Salt Creek Drive, followed by painting of the new fence, which is anticipated to begin in August/September to allow for the pressure-treated wood to cure. Once completed, landscaping will be renewed along the fence line.
Other projects completed include the installation of a new electric meter and panel that were destroyed by an electric storm in early May near the northeast end of the Salt Creek bridge.
We will begin trimming common area trees over the roadways and ponds prior to the brunt of hurricane season and the return of school buses in the fall. We are asking all Salt Creek homeowners to do the same for trees on their property; some of which will be identified by the property manager in their property inspection.
We also ask homeowners to please ensure that all drains and catch basins remain clear of debris and yard waste to ensure proper flow of drain water during heavy rainy times. The master association's Operations, Maintenance and Waterways Committee has identified several drains within Salt Creek that require cleaning to ensure proper flow of water between the various lakes within the community — despite the fact that most of the drains in the community had already been pumped and cleaned approximately two years ago (at a cost of up to $250 to $500 per drain).

Send in your Neighborhood News!
Email editor@floridanewsline.com

Bridgewater Island hold Annual Meeting and Social

The Bridgewater Island Homeowners Association held their Annual Meeting and Social on Sunday, May 19. More than 30 residents attended, representing 16 homes

Photos courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association

of the 39 in the community.
A brief meeting covered Bridgewater business, including Bridgewater's healthy financial and updates on the road project (postponed) and the Oak Bridge Club. New business included a priority on starting a dialogue to change the community's covenants on leasing regulations; expansion of the Sawgrass Pet Resort; paver and bulkhead repairs and various reminders regarding Bridgewater and the master association. The board was unanimously voted to remain in place.

"Afterwards, we enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs (thanks to our 'Master Grillers' Louie Iannacone and Tom Borer), along with assorted beverages supplied by the homeowner association and some fabulous dishes prepared by the residents," said Bridgewater President Debbie McWade. "It was a great time to come together and enjoy great food and friendship."

Players *People*

TJ Welsh of Salt Creek has been named chair of the master association's Architectural Control Committee … Congratulations to **Jan and Gunther Horne** of Cypress Creek who came in second in their division in the Mixed RITA Doubles Tennis Tournament! The fundraising event for The RITA Foundation was held June 1 – 2 at Sawgrass Country Club and benefited Prostate and Breast Cancer Research … Congrats to **Tony Rossi** of Cypress Bridge and **Gunner Goetz** of Oakbridge and their fellow Ponte Vedra High School teammates on winning the first state lacrosse championship in program history. The Sharks beat St. Thomas Aquinas 19 – 7 on May 11 in Boca Raton. Go Sharks!

Photo courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association
The Ponte Vedra Sharks won the school's first state lacrosse championship.

Dan MacDonald remembered

Former Sawgrass Players Club Association board of directors member Dan MacDonald of Vicar's Landing passed away June 4 at the age of 90. A memorial service was held at Vicar's Landing on July 13.

MacDonald served on the master board from 2016 to 2018, when he resigned due to health issues. He also chaired the Civic Liaison Committee, of which he was a member for many years. Co-member Tina McGough, formerly of North Cove, said Dan "wanted to improve the quality of life, the aesthetics and property values of the community, not for himself, but for the community as a whole."

In addition to his work with Sawgrass Players Club's master association, MacDonald

Photo courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Association
Dan MacDonald

was an officer with the St. Johns County Roundtable, a founding member of the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition, a member of Marsh Landing homeowners board of directors, and Vicar's Landing Resident Director for five years during a very active time of renovation and capital improvement.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Adele, three children, five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

YEEHAW!

HOEDOWN WAS A HOOT!

About 200 people came out to enjoy the Sawgrass Players Club Hoedown on May 17. In addition to a live pony carousel, attendees enjoyed fun games, good food, and great weather. The winner of our raffle was Lisa Dorman. Check out the two videos on our website (www.sawgrassplayersclub.org) under Announcements to see some line dancing and an adult tug-of-war!

We wish to thank our sponsors, The Oak Bridge Club and Standfast Productions, which helped to subsidize the cost of the event.

Cultivating a Micro Farm at Sawgrass Marriott Resort

By Kathy Ames Carr / Photography By Sarah Annay

The path through the cluster of trees that leads to Bee Hill Micro Farm could easily be mistaken for an incidental wild animal clearing. The golf cart barely clears the entrance, then ambles up a rocky incline before sputtering to a stop in front of the property's gate, which has been constructed from tree branches. This unusual entrance is apropos, given Chef Matthew Sanchez's unconventional road to becoming the Marriott corporation's first and only certified beekeeper.

The gates heave open to a clearing that could comfortably fit an in-ground swimming pool, or, perhaps, more vehicle parking. "I've been working on this over the last couple of years, not yet wanting to draw too much attention to it until the full scope of its potential could be demonstrated," Sanchez says. "It's kind of like that song by Joni Mitchell about paving paradise to put up a parking lot." He didn't want to see this plot of hotel property, located in Ponte Vedra Beach between the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa and the resort's villas, befall a similar fate.

Here, pockets of projects at various stages of completion occupy the corporate hotel's micro farm. A glass jug of muscadine grape and datil pepper mead sits atop an antique end table, which serves as the entry point into the garden portion of the micro farm. Flanked by native plants on either side, rows of raised beds teem with datil peppers, okra, tomatoes, Brussels sprouts, corn and greens — some grown from seed and others sourced from Jacksonville feed and farm supply distributor, The Green Spot. Beyond the tree line, there is a fallow piece of land destined to become a salt extraction project.

Sixteen colonies of bees occupy the opposite end of the property, which is the hub of the landscape. This micro farm, Sanchez says, is the result of both the support of Sawgrass Marriott's culinary staff and hotel management as well as a failed tomato-growing project.

"I remember we were doing menu planning a couple years ago. The temptation is to consult the catalog and see what we need to order," Sanchez says. "One day, executive chef Joe (Natoli) and I just stopped and said: Can we get off the wheel? Are there things we can do ourselves?"

He pauses and kneels before a colony of buzzing honeybees. "This is our wheelhouse. Beekeeping is the gateway drug," he says. "I feel so grateful that the staff here has basically given me carte blanche and put faith into my crazy ideas."

The vision is to cultivate a self-sustaining agricultural space that can be replicated throughout other Marriott hotel properties, although for now, Sanchez is the only beekeeper on Marriott's payroll, according to a company spokeswoman. But Sanchez is ready to propagate his vision, having already prepared a syllabus with chapters that cover such topics as beekeeping, safety and inspection regulations and hygiene. Natoli allocates a certain amount of the food and beverage spend toward supporting the micro farm's endeavors, though much of it was developed through resourceful practices. Items destined for the trash (think wood pallets and food waste) are up-cycled for building materials and compost. Queen bees were grafted to form new colonies. "People from different departments of the hotel are coming out and adding their special touch," Natoli said. "A gentleman from the laundry department wood-worked all our signs, and an engineer tapped the sprinkler system to bring us water to the hill."

Sure, the likelihood of an institutional buyer such as Sawgrass Marriott growing all its own food on premise is unlikely, at least for the foreseeable future. But the micro farm's supporters view the project as a portal into a different philosophy of food sourcing and a corporation's obligation to the environment. "The big thing is contributing to the health of the local ecosystem and in turn, learning how to farm and grow more ourselves," Sanchez says. "Our focus has to start right here, with the earth."

For Sanchez, who owns his own micro farm in a rural area of Jacksonville, the seeds were planted a few years ago, when successive attempts to grow good tomatoes that didn't require pesticide applications kept falling short. "I grew thousands of varieties of tomatoes, before I realized it comes down to bees and pollination. When you have beneficial insects, flowers are pollinated. The fruit forms more perfect, and you don't lose them to pests. I will never waste a tomato again."

Sanchez, a state-licensed beekeeper who also is in the University of Florida's Master Beekeeper program, studies the bees' foraging travels with binoculars, and can tell which nectar sources they've been to by the corbiculae, or pollen baskets, on their legs.

"It's called flower fidelity — they go to the flowers with the most food," he says. In spring, holly, black cherry and tallow represent the dominant flavor notes. "The 32082 zip code spring honey is sweet, light in color, delicate and low in moisture content," Sanchez says, in reference to the zip code for Ponte Vedra Beach. In the summer, honey bees look to palm trees as their main source of nectar, resulting in honey that is darker and higher in moisture content, while the fall batch will have elements of golden rain tree and goldenrod.

Photos courtesy of Sarah Annay, www.sarahannayphotography.com

Sanchez and Natoli have high hopes for the micro farm. Sanchez has built a 900-square-foot enclosure that can accommodate about 100 quail, potentially producing 100 fertile quail eggs a day. Chickens occupy another nearby enclosure, their contributions about to become more significant once Sanchez's mealworm composting project takes hold. He's currently tinkering with binchō-tan charcoal, zeolite and a pizza oven to, basically, evaporate seawater to make sea salt, with plans to export his experiment from the kitchen to the micro farm.

"We should be able to provide salt on every table in every restaurant and in our spa. We have water, and we have sun," Sanchez says.

In the immediate future, plans for tours and alfresco dinners are in the works. As Sanchez rattles off ideas for kitchen plastics repurposing, floating gardens in the nearby pond, hops-growing, mead-making and goat-husbandry (many of these endeavors of which he has prior experience given his background in science, cooking and farming), one gets the sense that a small-scale vision could indeed become part of a broader institutional food-sourcing philosophy, if their customers — that is us — support it.

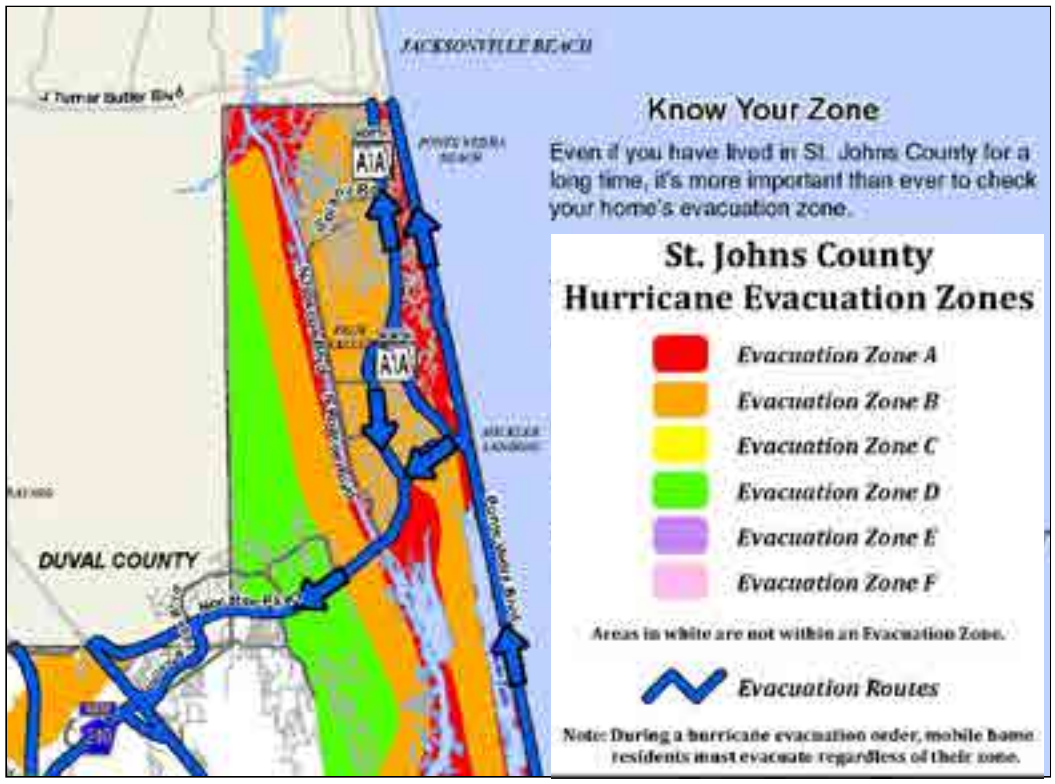
"The ultimate form of sustainability is to be self-sustaining," says Sanchez. "Now that the door is open, it's open."

Chef Matt Sanchez can be found cooking and micro farming at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa.

This story originally appeared in Edible Northeast Florida Magazine, September/October 2018

Heed lessons learned about hurricane preparedness

By Irene Lombardo



Graphic courtesy St. Johns County

Hurricane season is upon us. If hurricanes Matthew and Irma taught us anything, it is that we should not be complacent when it comes to being prepared for any contingency.

During Hurricane Irma, one home in Players Club's fallen tree caused a water pipe to break and flood the home. It's a lesson for all of us to turn off our water if we have to evacuate.

It's also a good idea to prune trees around the house now before a storm hits and keep drains and gutters free of debris. Also, installing check valves in plumbing can prevent backups.

The following suggested timeline is adapted from the Department of Homeland Security's ready.gov website to help you prepare:

> Sawgrass Players Club is in Evacuation Zone B.

36 Hours Before a Hurricane's Arrival

Monitor the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.

Restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include food and water sufficient for at least three days per person, medications, a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.

Plan how to communicate with family members if you lose power. Sending text messages is usually reliable and faster than making phone calls because phone lines are often overloaded.

Review your evacuation zone, evacuation route and shelter locations. Sawgrass Players Club is in Evacuation Zone B.

Keep your car's gas tank full; stock your vehicle with emergency supplies and a change of clothes.

18 – 36 Hours Before a Hurricane's Arrival

Bookmark your city or county website for quick access to storm updates and emergency instructions.

Bring loose, lightweight objects inside that could become projectiles in high winds (e.g., patio furniture, garbage cans); anchor objects that would be unsafe to bring inside (e.g., propane tanks).

Board up your home's windows.

6 – 18 Hours Before a Hurricane's Arrival

Check latest weather updates and emergency instructions every 30 minutes.

Charge your cell phone and backup battery (if you have one).

6 Hours Before a Hurricane's Arrival

If you do not need to evacuate, stay at home or where you are and let friends and family know where you are.

Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting and open only when necessary. If you lose power, food will last longer. Keep a thermometer in the refrigerator to be able to check the food temperature when the power is restored.

Keep checking the latest weather updates and emergency instructions every 30 minutes.

In Anticipation of an Evacuation

Plan where you will go ahead of time; identify several places.

If you have pets, identify a place to stay that will accept pets. Most public shelters allow only service animals.

Develop a family/household communication/reunification plan if you will be separated.

When Evacuating

Take your emergency kit and supplies.

Let family members know where you are going.

Unplug electrical equipment with the exception of the refrigerator/freezer.

Secure your home, locking doors and windows.

Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.

Follow recommended evacuation routes.

Sign up for CODE RED

(Reprinted from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office)

Residents of St. Johns County can be notified of public safety issues by high-speed telephone emergency notification services. The CODE RED system gives county and city officials the ability to deliver pre-recorded emergency telephone notification/information messages to the entire county or to targeted areas. Officials from the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, St. Johns County Fire Rescue, St. Augustine Police, and St. Augustine Beach Police Department have been trained on the system to ensure all citizens can be informed of any public safety issues.

The system can be used on a variety of events to include, but not limited to, hazardous weather conditions, fires, bomb threats, gas leaks, missing children or adults, escaped prisoners, hazardous material emergencies, or sexual offender or predator notifications.

St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar cautioned that such systems are only as good as the telephone database supporting them.

"If your phone number is not in the database, you will not be called," Shoar said. The system gives individuals and businesses the ability to add their own phone numbers directly to the system's telephone database.

All businesses should register, as well as all individuals who have unlisted phone numbers, who have changed their phone number or address within the past year, and who use a cellular phone as their primary home phone. Shoar explained that the CODE RED system is a geographical-based notification system, which means street addresses are needed to select which phone numbers will receive emergency notification calls in any given situation. It also works fine for cellular phones, but they have to be matched with a street address.

To register, visit https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/F7E2E5C31CC1.

St. Johns County residents and visitors also can receive enhanced public safety alerts no matter where they are located via the CodeRED Mobile Alert app — a free public safety app for both Android and iPhone users. The CodeRED Mobile Alert app delivers community and emergency alerts to individuals targeted within an impacted geographical area so that you may also receive timely notifications when you're on the road, away from home.

If you are currently a CodeRED subscriber who has already registered your mobile phone to receive notifications from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, you will continue to receive calls; however, if you download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app, you will also be able to receive alerts via your smartphone anywhere in the country, including Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Alaska.

To download the free CodeRED Mobile Alert app, visit the Google Play or the iTunes store.

What happens at the pump station when the power goes out?

By Paul Rushton, Co-chair, Operations, Management and Waterways (OM&W) Committee

During hurricanes Matthew and Irma, we lost power at both pump stations in the midst of the storms. Not at all unexpected. So, no big deal. We have diesel engines that can continue to drive the pumps and keep the water moving. The engines need ventilation in the room to stay cool and we have a small home style propane generator for that purpose. So all is well, right? Not so fast, I say.

Since we have the capability to run our two pumps from either a diesel engine drive or an electric motor drive, the best scenario would be to run one pump with a diesel engine and the other with an electric motor. The advantage of the electric motor drive is that it moves more water than the diesel engine-driven pump and can continue to run even if some unknown problem affects the diesel engines.

> OM&W has purchased a diesel generator to make electricity and keep the pump running even when the power goes out during a storm.

The Operations, Management and Waterways (OM&W) Committee has purchased a generator to make the electricity needed to run one of our large electric motors and keep the pump running even when (not if) Beaches Energy power goes away. This new generator is being installed at the Seven Mile Drive pump station and is expected to be in standby service for our needs by the end of July.

The added advantage of the diesel generator is that we will also be able to run another smaller electric pump that adds about 10 percent more to our capacity. We know that the largest mitigation to flooding during a hurricane is pumping capacity. How much water we can move off the property during a major rainfall is the primary determinant of what the peak water levels will be in the neighborhood.

We have obtained a permit to discharge full capacity flow rates from the Seven Mile Drive pump station. Our goal is to run all pumps for the duration of the rainfall, so reliable pumping capability is paramount. Salt Creek is under consideration for future similar changes, but we may have other more important things to do first.

I hope you are comforted by the knowledge that OM&W is doing all within its power to protect our property from flooding damage. More to come……

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Avoid a late fee on your semiannual assessment

You should have received your 2019 semiannual assessment notice, which was mailed the week of June 17. The amount of $639 was due July 1. If you have not yet paid the July installment, you have until July 30 to pay without incurring a late fee.

For your convenience, master association dues may be paid by logging on to www.bbt.com. On the BBT home page, go to the Personal Services Logon (right-hand side of screen). In the drop-down menu select Association Online Payments and click "Go."

Homeowners can avoid late fees by making automatic recurring payments through a bank account. If you wish to do so, you can enroll in Association Pay online at BBT.com/payments. You must enroll by the 25th of the month to be effective for the next debit month.

You also can enroll by U.S. Mail. Complete the Association Pay authorization form that was included with your payment notice. Attach a voided check to the form and mail to BB&T Association Services, P.O. Box 2914, Largo, FL 33779-2914. You should continue to make your payments until the bank notifies you when your automatic payment will start.

Algae, floating leaves and weeds require constant vigilance

By Joseph Lawton and the team at Clear Waters, Inc.

Summer is here; the heat is on! Clear Waters' technicians are actively treating algae blooms, floating weeds, submersed weeds and emergent shoreline vegetation. Please be patient, as it can take a week or two to safely clear a significant algae bloom in the warmer water. In some cases the algae growth can resurface again a couple of weeks later. In some waterways it can be a constant battle for several months.

Please keep in mind that there is no way to prevent all algal blooms, so when it appears the best solution is to treat it, then inspect weekly, re-treating as necessary to clear up the waterway. Depending on environmental conditions like temperature and rainfall, you can expect to see algae come and go mostly throughout the warm season.

The spring Vallisneria (eelgrass) treatments went well. Most of the areas treated are showing good results, with a lot of the leaves floating unattached. That does not mean the eel grass is going to be completely gone. We're hoping for a significant reduction from the treatments.

So far so good. The dead leaves will linger for months due to the bulk of the biomass. The waterways with the heaviest concentration of plants have received multiple rounds of treatment. With these large areas of dying, decaying vegetation, you will often see algae forming around it, but that can be a good sign. It's not always best for us to treat the algae right away because the algaecides can interrupt the decomposition process by killing the beneficial bacteria and enzymes that are naturally present to help the process.

Please be vigilant in the management of your lawn and landscape service providers. The best place for the grass clippings is in the lawn. Fertilizers and grass clippings left in driveways, streets, and sidewalks are going to end up in the waterway. Any little reduction in nutrient loading of the waterway is a benefit to all.

Remember, your community waterways drain into the Intracoastal Waterway and the surrounding marshes, which need our help also.

Golf cart drivers must have licenses

All golf cart drivers in Sawgrass Players Club must carry a valid driver's license. Letting underage children drive a golf cart is tantamount to allowing them to drive a car. Do not put your child or others in danger.

Parents are liable for a child found driving a golf cart without a license and are subject to a $100 fine.

Register for the SenioRITAs tennis tournament!

Registration opens July 31 for the 20th annual SenioRITAs Doubles Tennis Tournament scheduled to take place Oct. 18 – 20, 2019, at Sawgrass Country Club. The charity tournament is open to women aged 40 and older. Players are divided by age and level of play. Each year more than 300 women come from all over the country to participate.

The SenioRITAs event is an all-volunteer team effort. All proceeds go to benefit breast cancer research at Mayo Clinic and patient services at Baptist Medical Center Beaches.

A kick-off party presented by Sun Trust will be held at Pusser's Caribbean Grille on Oct. 2. The $30 cost includes two drinks and hors d'oeuvres. In addition, an auction party is scheduled for Oct. 14 at Sawgrass Country Club and hosted by Main Street American Group. The player entry fee includes admittance to the latter event, which includes light cuisine, cash bar, drawings, silent and live auctions.

Tickets for non-players cost $45.

The cost for participating doubles teams is $200, which includes the auction party as well as breakfast and lunch on Oct. 19 and 20.

Don't play tennis? Support the cause anyway! Come on out to the party and auction. Or purchase a pink flag for $10 in honor of a cancer survivor or in memory of a loved one. The flags will line the SeniorRITAs Honor Walk during the three-day tournament.

The SeniorRITAs Doubles Tennis Tournament is a fundraising event of The RITA (Research Is The Answer) Foundation. Visit www.the-rita-foundation.org/senioritas to register or for more information.

Don't give thieves an open door to steal your car

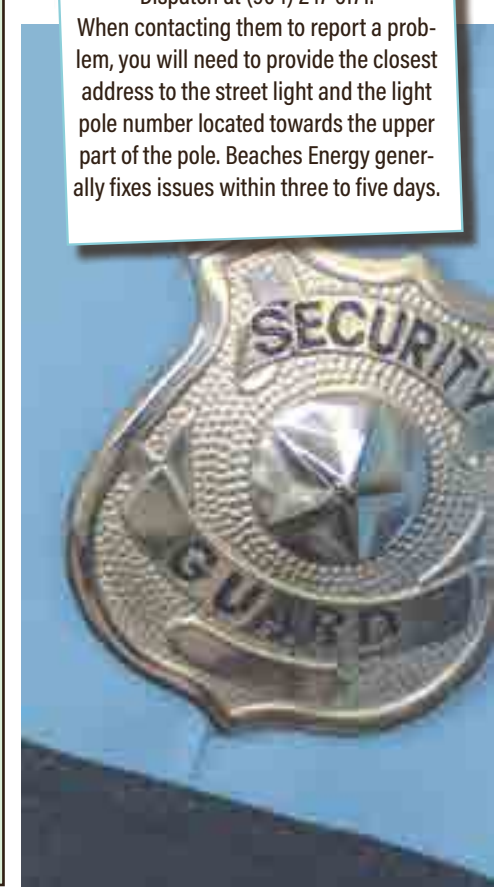
The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO) continues to report a rash of vehicle thefts occurring throughout the Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra Beach area. Recently two thefts occurred in Players Club Villas.

All thefts have occurred in unlocked vehicles with keys in the cars, and the cars have been parked in the street or driveway. Don't be a victim. Always lock your car both during the day and night, and do not leave valuables in your car that are visible to a potential thief.

If you see something suspicious, please call SJSO at (904) 824-8304.

Report streetlight issues to Beaches Energy dispatch

Is there a street light near your home burning day and night? Report it to Beaches Energy Services' special dispatch service at streetlights@beachesenergy.com. You also can call BES Dispatch at (904) 247-6171.
When contacting them to report a problem, you will need to provide the closest address to the street light and the light pole number located towards the upper part of the pole. Beaches Energy generally fixes issues within three to five days.



Landscape Now

Trees are under stress; five-year plan in place

By Trey Lineberger, Precision Turf

Over the past few years Ponte Vedra Beach has been continuing to lose more and more pine trees. Most arborists would conclude that there is not one cause, but a collective of stresses that is leading to this decline in pine tree population.

The list includes hurricanes and other extreme weather. The swaying of trees caused by the two most recent hurricanes disturbed many trees' root structures. This disruption affects a tree's ability to uptake water and nutrients, causing stress. Also, we've had some extreme weather — either hot drought-like conditions with no rain for many days or an abundance of rain. These extremes can cause the trees to stress and then attract pine beetles to finish off the job.

These conditions are also affecting other species of trees, particularly if a tree is older or reaching the end of its life cycle. These stresses can bring on a faster decline.

Enough of the bad news! The good news is that the master association's Landscape Committee has been proactively approaching the situation and has been selectively removing trees as necessary for safety, aesthetics or insect population control. We've been working within our budget to responsibly manage the challenges. Every month we inspect the property to note dead trees selected for removal. We also note trees that are starting to decline and watch for further stress.

The committee has also been planting new trees and will continue to do so. We recently approved a five-year plan that includes planting new trees such as oaks, magnolias and hollies in various locations to maintain and enhance the look and feel of Sawgrass Players Club.

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SPCWA offers a little something for everyone

By Barbara Prochaska and Irene Lombardo

Looking for something different to do this summer? Come see what the Sawgrass Players Club Women's Association (SPCWA) has to offer. Meet a great group of women and enjoy fun social activities and special events. All women in Sawgrass Players Club are invited to join.

Sawgrass Players Club Women's Association offers a variety of ongoing monthly activities and special events. In August, the group will enjoy lunch and a special guided tour of the new exhibit — French Moderns: Monet to Matisse, 1850 – 1950 — at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens. There are six book clubs (our most popular activity) as well as a Recipe Club. Golfers may want to join our Golf Group, which plays twice a month. If you want to stay out of the heat, come inside and play Bridge, Canasta, Mah Jongg or Scrabble. Or get together for food and fun at Ladies Lunch Out, Ladies Night Out or Girls Night Out.

Cocktail parties, Happy Hour, Mix & Mingle, and Trivia include spouses and significant others as well, as do some special events and excursions like our recent Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp game and boat trip to Cumberland Island.

As you can see, there's a little bit of everything. Prospective members are welcome to attend any of the scheduled activities or events. Check out the monthly newsletter Connect!, which is available on the Sawgrass website's resident home page at sawgrassplayersclub.org, for more details.

Annual dues are $30. "Wine & Welcome" socials are held for new and prospective members to learn more about the women's association.

If you are interested in joining or just want to "check it out," send an email to info@SPCWA.org and the membership chairman, Carol Zehil, will contact you. Why wait? Come join the fun!

Photo courtesy Sawgrass Players Club Women's Association

SPCWA has scheduled lunch and a guided tour of the exhibit French Moderns: Monet to Matisse, 1850 –1950, at the Cummer Museum for Aug. 28. Pictured is Claude Monet's "Rising Tide at Pourville," 1882

If you see damage or vandalism to community areas please let us know!

Call Kristy Richland at 273-3033

Report suspicious activity to 543-0043 or 370-4875

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