

Communique

**Secret Cove
Community
Newsletter**

Spring 2007

Volume 22, Issue 1

*Get to know your
Secret Cove Board
of Directors:*

President:

Bill Cheek
737-3032

Vice President:

Roger Deary
737-0719

Treasurer:

Hugh Dever
733-7609

Secretary:

Ken Gula
732-7068

Board Members:

James Baker
443-7733
George Bollinger
739-8030
Neal Taylor
730-2489
Laura Veek
636-7806
Karen Weise
739-7447

City Service

630-2489

Animal Control

387-8846

Phone Solicitors

630-3467

Electricity/Water

665-6000

**Garbage or Yard
Waste**

387-8999

Neighbor's

Unkempt Yard

630-4957

President's Message

Please join me in thanking Bill Courtney and Ron Williams for their service to Secret Cove. Bill and Ron have just completed their three year term as members of the Secret Cove Civic Association Board of Directors. At the January Annual Meeting of Secret Cove Civic Association two new board members, Jamie Baker and Laurel Veek were elected to a three year term and Roger Deary was reelected to a second three year term. I want to welcome them to the board of directors.

I want to publicly thank Jeannie Petty, who for the past seven years has faithfully served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Communique. Please join with me in thanking Jeannie for a job well done. Jeannie, thank you very much for your time and energy.

At the Annual Meeting, Ken Gula, our Secret Cove Board Secretary, reported that a number of our long time residents who have been serving our community as committee chairs have indicated that they would like some help from time-to-time. Ken told the Association membership that he had prepared sign up sheets for a variety of jobs to assist the various committee Chairs. He urged everyone present to sign up as a volunteer for one of the many opportunities to serve our neighborhood.

As we move forward into the spring, there are a few events that are sponsored by the Board for the enjoyment of all our members. Each of these events requires many helping hands and I urge each of you to become involved with your neighbors and by extension your neighborhood. My thanks to all of those who work in the making this neighborhood a great place to live.

It is our pledge to you as residents to keep you informed as to the business of your Board. Please visit any of Board meetings to observe first hand the work of your Directors. If you have comments or suggestions please let us hear from you.

Bill Cheek
SCCA President

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Thanks to the volunteers that turned out for our Neighborhood Workday on Saturday, April 14. We could have used a few more volunteers as there were several projects we were unable to complete. Some of the projects completed were: Spread mulch in the playground and island or turnaround in the Park; Planted Holly in front of the pool fence; Replaced posts for volleyball net; Trimmed trees and removed brush; Repaired 2 tables under the Pavillion and Landscape work within the Park.

For the work accomplished, a special thanks to the following Workday volunteers: Mary, Brian and Katie Lewis, Kurt Krier, Ken Grula, Hugh Dever, Gary and Karen Weise, George Bollinger, David, Margaret and Matthew Bennet and Victor Calvert.

We are very close to completing our Community Park Improvement project and will soon be applying for the \$5,000 grant which we were awarded pending completion of our project. We want to again acknowledge the \$500 contribution made by the Women's Club to help with our Landscape Project. This was appreciated very much.

One of the projects in our Park was resurfacing of our tennis courts. This project was started on December 4 and finally completed on January 21. Also, almost everyone is aware of a light pole falling over the tennis courts on November 3. Upon inspection, another pole was found to be partially rotten. Fortunately, no one was playing or got hurt as a result of the pole falling. At the SCCA Annual Membership Meeting on Jan. 29, the membership approved replacement of all the poles and this job was completed on March 29. The courts look very good and will continue to be a great asset to the community.

Total Lawn Care has been doing a good job with taking care of our entrances and other common ground areas. The contract with TLC calls for a minimum of 42 visits and there have been a few weeks since the first of the year that were skipped. Starting in April, they will be here every week or more if needed.

With the approval of Ace Hardware, we had 10% Discount Cards printed for SCCA Members. The cards should be good for the 10% discount on most items but excludes grills, power tools and sale items. We will try to deliver them when we distribute the Communique.

If you have any questions, or know of anything that needs attention, please contact me at 367-0792.

Thanks.

Doc Bolden

UPDATE ON REZONING AND GATE PARKWAY

The SCCA Rezoning Committee has met with Mr. Perez, Architect for PQH Architects. They are designing the Wellness Center on the west side of Belfort Road, south of the convenience store. The committee has looked very carefully at the design of the building and the services it will provide and have reached the conclusion, the development is not in keeping with the Low Density Residential area surrounding the property in question. As we all know the south end of Belfort is heavily commercialized and allowing additional commercial development outside the current guidelines in our area would devalue our homes and the quality of life we have.

We have emailed copies of a Resolution opposing this development to Secret Cove residents and the surrounding neighborhoods. The Resolution outlines the reasons for our opposition. We are also including a copy of this Resolution in this Communique and hope you will have each member of your household sign a copy and return to Jenny Suber, 3402 Secret Cove Place. Any questions you have, please call 737-9699.

We checked with Suzanne Jenkins, City Council Person, regarding the opening of Gate Parkway. It is on hold at this point, waiting for the DOT to set a date.

There is a new rezoning sign at the corner of Belfort Road and Touchton. The fire station on Hogan is being closed for environmental reasons and Chief Peterson spoke to the Recreation and Parks Division about allowing the station in this area. It seems the fire department originally suggested it be moved near St. Johns Town Center. Chief Peterson said they have more runs on this side of Southside Blvd. and it would add at least five minutes to the response time. We would rather have the fire station on this side of Southside Blvd., but we are trying to have it moved toward the other end of Touchton. This would remove it from behind the homes in Lakemont Subdivision and keep the original area for the park in place.

Rezoning Task Force, Secret Cove Civic Association

Chairperson: Neal Taylor

Members: Jenny Suber, Dave Wilson, Don Clark, Gary Weise, Karen Gallagher, Diane Groger, Barbara Krier and Dean Steiner

Please "DUE" Your Fair Share

For those of you that have already paid your Secret Cove Civic Association dues, **THANK YOU!** The red sticker on your mail box shows your neighbors that you care. If you have not paid, please reconsider. We need your support. Imagine entering Secret Cove one evening and the entrance lights are not on. Would you wonder why? What if the lake became so overgrown with hydrilla and green slime that all the fish died, the ducks left and the lake became stagnant and foul? Would it bother you? If the common grounds became overgrown with weeds and the grass was never mowed, would you be embarrassed to call Secret Cove your home? If the pool filter pump stopped and the pool filled up with algae and had to close, would you still want to live here? What if there was no fence separating Secret Cove and Belfort Road, would you feel good about that? Who would buy your house if you wanted to sell?

The dues paid by Secret Cove Civic Association members go towards paying the electric bills for lights and irrigation. Dues pay for common grounds upkeep and routine lake maintenance. They also pay for security, insurance, taxes and neighborhood improvements. You get all this and more for less than 69 cents a day. If you have not paid your dues PLEASE be a good neighbor and pay them today. We are all in this together.

Send your check for \$250.00 to:
Secret Cove Civic Association
P. O. Box 550706
Jacksonville, FL. 32255-0706

Secret Cove Civic Association – Board of Directors

SPECIAL THANKS

Dear Secret Cove residents,

Thank you for your cards, well wishes, thoughts, prayers, and expressions of concern during my stays in the hospital. I'm grateful to those of you who offered to assist me at home during my recovery, should the need arise. Special thanks to those who donated blood, since it seems I substantially depleted the inventory at the blood banks. Specifically, thanks to Ron & Jeanne Zucker, who supported Ginny during this ordeal.

WHAT A NEIGHBORHOOD !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Ray Brock

Gardening with Becky

Spring has definitely arrived, complete with a banner crop of sneezing and itchy eyes. Lawns are greening up nicely. Leaves and pine needles should be removed from lawns.

If your lawn gets a lot of foot traffic, ask your pest control company about hollow core aeration. Compacted lawns have low oxygen levels, which makes root growth difficult. The hollow core machinery pulls out small plugs of soil and decaying material, allowing air to permeate the top 4" of the soil. If you are having a problem with nutsedge, compacted soils are usually a contributing factor.

For all plants, water is an issue at this time of the year. Or, rather, lack of water. We're going into a challenging time for plants. The longer day length and warming temperatures call for more water, and Mother Nature is a bit stingy.

Lawns can be watered twice a week. We are VERY lucky that our water management district does not (yet) tell us which days we can water. (For those of us without sprinkler systems that flexibility is a big issue.) Your lawn DOES NOT need to be watered more often than that IF you water a full 1/2"-3/4" each time. Less water than that will not penetrate to the optimum depth for your turf roots, and will weaken your lawn. There are still some people watering in the evening. Please tell your neighbors that **watering in the evening encourages the growth of fungus.**

Citrus trees (you can smell the blossoms when you walk) may need more watering than twice a week to ensure they can hold onto their fruit. In the event of a perceived drought, the tree will drop the fruit to save itself!

It is time to prune those plants that have already bloomed. Wait until after bloom for hydrangeas, gardenias, etc.

Spring is the season of color, and already it is showing up – the azaleas and dogwood are finished, but daffodils, iris and agapanthus are just getting started! Enjoy the season!

Becky Wern
739-1939



The Welcome Committee

The Welcome Committee made visits to following new residents of Secret Cove this winter:

Adam and Joanna Blinn
3470 Compass Rose East

Chris and Ivy Dix
8373 Compass Rose Drive South

Jeff and Sunnyie Fillegar
8210 Hidden Lake Drive South

Marsha L. Widdows
3158 Old Port Circle West

On behalf of the residents of Secret Cove, The Board extends a hearty Secret Cove welcome to our new families. Please greet and welcome them as new neighbors.

The only way the Welcome Committee can know if a new resident moves into the neighborhood is if the neighbors of the new resident contact the committee. Please be vigilant in your reporting new residents to Kathy Cheek at 737-3032 so she can make arrangements to extend an official visit from the committee.

If you are a new resident and have not had an official visit from the committee, or if you know of a new resident and suspect they have not received an official welcome visit from the committee, please contact Kathy Cheek at 737-3032 or Carileen Bollinger at 739-8030. It is their goal to make new residents feel at home in their new neighborhood; they want to greet each new resident and provide them with a Welcome Kit. They also want to tell them about our neighborhood and our civic association.

Neighborhood Author Releases First Book!

Amanda Williams, a resident of Secret Cove, authored and released her first book entitled, "Becoming Visible". "Becoming Visible" is a Christian novel describing a romance between two college students that tests both faith and character. The book is currently for sale on tatepublishing.com. It will be officially released in bookstores such as Barnes and Noble, Family Christian, and Amazon.com. on May 29. Please support our local author!!!

SECRET

Can you keep a Secret? - Cove, that is. Well, you certainly can help keep Secret Cove the wonderful place in which we live. Little things mean a lot. Like bagging your grass clippings and leaves rather than blowing them down the street drains and thereby into our lake. How about parking your vehicles in the driveway instead of on our narrow streets causing traffic concerns and endangering our many walkers? City codes require rubbish and yard waste to be placed at the curb (not in the street) no sooner than 6 PM the night before pick-up nor later than 6 AM on pick-up days - something simple we all can do.

Keeping a neat, clean home site is appreciated by all your neighbors, reduces vermin and pest occurrences, and maintains home values. Fires of all types are prohibited by city codes. Motorcycles, motorbikes, off road vehicles, dune buggies, etc. are banned from the playing fields, parking area, and undeveloped areas by association rules. We have asked our police patrolman to ticket violators.

If you are one of our many walkers, runners, or bikers, wear light colored and/or reflective clothing after darkness falls - we've had a few close calls recently - and, if you are driving - slow down! Oh yes, and join the majority of us who pay our association dues which help underwrite maintaining our high standards.

Your Board of Directors

POOL TIME

Are you ready for the summer and swimming at the pool?

Once you've paid your dues and pool membership, all you have to do is activate your pool card! An adult from your household will need to sign the release form for this year before your card can be reactivated.

To sign the release form, please contact Becky Wern, Roger Deary, Hugh Dever or Doc Bolden. Once you have signed this form, your card will be activated and ready to go!

We're hoping to open the pool Easter Weekend. If you would like to volunteer to close the pool for a week, please call Becky Wern. (739-1939) Hours for the pool will be 9 AM-9 PM this year, with closing at 10 PM on Fridays and Saturdays.

Secret Cove

Neighborhood Watch Program

What is it all about?

The Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) is neighbors helping neighbors by keeping a watchful eye on each other's safety, homes and property. It also provides a network to enable us to keep one another informed of any criminal activity in the neighborhood so we can better protect our families.

How does it work?

Hopefully you have been, or soon will be, contacted by one of the more than 20 Block Captains who have been assigned to each of the households in our neighborhood. Please be responsive to their efforts to make our program the most effective one in the city. They act as a liaison between you and the Neighborhood Watch Co-Chairman (NWC) who have access to law enforcement officials. This network has a two-way flow, enabling the distribution of information concerning suspicious activity and crime in the area, and how we as individuals can help keep our homes and families safe. Feel free to contact a Block Captain at any time. If you aren't sure who your Block Captain is, look in the Secret Cove Directory's Street Listing for the address with an "*" . There have been a few changes since the Directory was published. If you find you need an update feel free to contact NWC Bill Courtney 733-2122 Home, 707-0778 Cell or Gary Weise 739-7447 Home.

What is going on?

Your Block Captain can inform you about recent incidents and trends in our neighborhood. However, please assist them in doing so by ensuring they have the best phone number to reach you. If you have an e-mail address please share it with them and monitor it frequently for updates. Your NWP is working on some approaches to speed the information flow to make our program more effective.

Can I volunteer?

Yes, you can! The more volunteers we have the better the program works. Since most residential crimes take place during daylight hours, people who are home during the day can be very effective Block Captains. If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please contact your block captain

LAZY GOURMET

We know this sounds repetitious but when you are really enjoying yourself, repetition is good! As many as 36 Secret Cove folks have dined together at just about all the local restaurants in the past few years. Not only have we enjoyed good food and fellowship but it is rumored that weighty world problems have been solved at our get-togethers. We've even arrived at a good snow removal plan for Secret Cove, debated the year, make and condition of the cars in our lake, discussed the dynamics of parasailing over volcanoes and considered the addition of Zumba dancing after our dinners.

So you can easily see that we are right on the leading edge of sophisticated society. Why don't you join us by calling Roger or Carol Deary at 737-0719.

SECRET COVE WOMEN'S CLUB

Well, ladies, we have almost wrapped up another year of activities. This year has seen a significant growth in membership, which resulted in enthusiasm, camaraderie, and increased dedication to our neighborhood.

True – the luminaries were not lit this year (weather-related) – but the sales netted profit that will be seen in the beautification of our entrances YEAR-ROUND!!

Granted – our landscape professional missed both scheduled meetings – but we survived and our yards look great anyway!

A remodeling contractor brought us some wonderful ideas on updating – which we promptly presented to our spouses!!

And April's meeting was one of the highlights of the year ---- we were graciously received into the homes of Barb Krier and Naomi Lumley. Both of their homes had undergone extensive renovation -- and we were justifiably "WOWED"!!

May's meeting will be the end of the 2006-2007 season.

LOOK TO JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER – for another year of fun, education, helping hands, and uplifting the spirit of Secret Cove!

Our meetings are held on the **FIRST** Monday of the month – at 7 PM.

(WARNING: Gator Championship games may take precedence)

For Your Information

Although we live in a low crime neighborhood we still have had several incidents reported to the Neighborhood Watch Program in the last year including: several mailbox riflings, trespassing on association property, several incidents of strange behavior by non-residents who appeared to be looking to commit a “crime of opportunity”, a pick-up truck stolen, a bike and tools taken from open garages, tires slashed and criminal mischief. Recently there have been complaints about youngsters riding motorcycles and various off-road vehicles speeding through the neighborhood and our common area north of the pool. Parents need to make sure their children are not involved since the police are contacted when needed to control such incidents. Keith Nazworth, our Sheriff’s Patrol Officer, has requested that residents and their guests be reminded when parking their car on the street it needs to be facing in the same direction as the traffic flow. Also, he noted any trailers parked on the street are a significant safety hazard and should not be left there for any length of time, definitely not overnight. Your SCCA has always requested that, for pedestrian and vehicle safety, every attempt should be made to park vehicles in driveways overnight rather than on our narrow streets.

Now that the season has changed we are outside more and school will be out before we know it, we need to become more aware of our surroundings and what our children are doing. Fortunately we have not experienced more serious crimes like the recent slaying of a 6-year-old Brunswick, GA boy. Such incidents remind us we all need to protect our children and ourselves. Every parent and responsible person needs to become more aware of what the risks are and how to better protect their family. Your Neighborhood Watch Block captains have information and each desires to help you better protect your property, family and yourself against becoming a crime victim. Take the initiative and give them a call.

Also learn more by visiting web sites like:
<http://www.familywatchdog.us> or
<http://www.watchsystems.com/fl/jacksonville/>.
Check these sites periodically to be aware of the registered offenders in areas where you and your children live, go to school, work and spend your time. Other family risks and ways to protect your family against them are described at sites like:

Volunteer Changes

This Spring edition of our SCCA newsletter, the first of 2007, marks some different people taking on responsibilities for some volunteer positions. After seven good years as editor of our Communiqué and a number of years managing the pool, Jeannie Petty has stepped back for a well-deserved rest. Jeannie has worked hard and long for Secret Cove and we are sure everyone joins us in wishing Jeannie the very best.

Becky Wern co-managed the pool last year and has assumed this responsibility this year. She will be assisted by Doc Bolden, Hugh Dever and Roger Deary in matters involving the pool, access cards, hours, rules, etc. Current phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed elsewhere in this edition.

Commencing with this edition, please direct all articles, ads, inquiries, and anything else pertaining to the Communiqué to Amanda Williams at 233-1854 or Ann Tillinghast at 731-8083.

The Communiqué email address is now: jeromy.williams@comcast.net. Also, on the staff are Ann Weisz at 730-0319 and Susan Schilling at 731-1462. While Amanda, husband Jeromy and their two children are fairly new (2006) to Secret Cove, the two Anns and Susan are long time residents and are known to many of us. They will be publishing four times a year and we are sure we can count on all in our community to support our new staff enthusiastically!

Your Board of Directors



<http://http://www.safestepsfla.net/>
<http://www.wiredwithwisdom.org/index.asp>

Tip – When going out of town: Before you leave, notify the police (Dark Report @ 828-5463; they’ll drive by your house daily if requested and their workload permits) and your Block Captain of any travel plans. By doing this you will improve the security in our neighborhood.

YMCA

Did you know that 62 individuals or families in Secret Cove are either members or former members of the YMCA, most at the Skinner Y, off Belfort Rd. south of Butler? It is very rare that I don't see a neighbor on my daily visits there. My membership has been very beneficial for me and to show my appreciation I volunteered to work on the First Coast YMCA "Share the Y" Campaign this year. This is their charitable program, through which they provide scholarships and grants to children and adults unable to afford the many Y programs and services through gifts from people just like us.

The campaign is winding down, but I'm very pleased to announce that, so far, 32 of the Y folks in Secret Cove have contributed over \$2,500 to Share the Y. Join me in thanking these generous, community-spirited people for their gifts. Another Secret Cove plus – generosity!

To those of you who may be interested or curious about what the YMCA has to offer: The Skinner Family YMCA is an affiliate of the YMCA of Florida's First Coast, serving the I-95 and J.T. Butler community. Their 15,000 Square Foot, state-of-the-art wellness facility caters to professionals, individuals and families in the Southpoint area.

Amenities include the Wellness Floor, Kid Zone Adventure Center, brand new cycling, aerobics and multipurpose studio space and cardiovascular, free weight and selectorized equipment. Offered are weekly group exercise classes, Silver Sneakers programs, spacious locker rooms and showers, towel service, nutrition education, and much, much more. For information call the Y (332-0665) or me (Roger Deary, 737-0719).

Easter Egg Excitement

So much heart and neighborhood spirit went into this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Many thanks go out to Kelly Mickey for candy stuffing, as well as to Roger Deary and Joan Petruska for recruiting additional support. Egg hidiers included: Susan and Floyd Houser, Bob Daugherty, Joan Petruska, and the Bennett family. A very generous donation of adorable spring beanie babies from Diane Koslowski made the day! Katie Lewis located the "Wascally rabbit" and Kelsey Duffy found the *coveted* Golden egg. Fun was had by all!!

Coordinator: Susan Grula

Advertisements

For Sale:

Queen size sofa bed, neutral colors – like new - \$100.00

Call Maeve at 733-7609

Ethan Alan Coffee Table 2 tier
56" L x 22" W, Pecan Wood
\$75.00

Call Maeve at 733-7609

Weider 8630 Home Gym. Multi-station weight system. Build and tone muscle, cardio workout, achieve fitness goals. Orig \$699.00. Selling for \$175.00

Call Chuck – 730-2319

Medium size black metal indoor dog kennel with bottom tray, collapsible. \$25

Call 343-3886

BEAUTIFUL, antique, dark cherry Acrosonic piano with bench. Great sound. Your kids will love to learn to play on it. Has appreciated in value over the years. Valued at \$1600, will sell for \$1300.

Call 343-3886

Furniture for sale:

1. Roll top desk, excellent condition all wood. Asking \$150.00
2. Computer desk (corner unit work station) grey in color, has a side cabinet and 2 drawers. Excellent condition. Asking \$150.00
3. Bedroom suite - Mediterranean style - King size headboard, triple dresser with double mirrors, armoire, and night stand walnut color. Asking \$650.00

Or make us an offer we can't refuse on any or all of the above pieces.

737-7296 –Koslowski

Summer Jobs wanted:

Lawns mowed, can bag leaves too! Pools cleaned, House/Pet sit, Exterior Windows Washed (single story only), etc.

Please call Zach 733-3700

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Volume 22, Issue 2

President's Message

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737-3032

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387-8846

Phone Solicitors

630-3467

Electricity/Water

665-6000

**Garbage or Yard
Waste**

387-8999

Neighbor's

Unkempt Yard

630-4957

As we prepare to celebrate the 4th of July, we cannot help but remember the joy of the founding fathers who gave so much to declare themselves free. They proclaimed that we should celebrate the birthday of our nation with fireworks and picnics. The Secret Cove 4th of July Committee has planned for a variety of activities for both young and not so young. While we will not have any fireworks, we will have a picnic at the pavilion. Will you come and join us for the cookout following the parade and help us celebrate as our founding fathers requested?

At the Annual Secret Cove Civic Association Meeting in January we asked for volunteers to help with a variety of jobs. Several of you responded. We now have a list of new volunteers who have agreed to help and perhaps allow some of those who have performed beyond the call of duty a much-needed sabbatical. It is not too late to send in your name. Contact Ken Grula.

Our beautiful lake is a treasure. We take pride in the way we maintain it. We encourage all Association Members to take advantage of the lake. Please remember, it is reserved for *dues paid* members and their guests only. Your friends who are not members of the association cannot use the facilities unless you accompany them to the lake. Recently, we have had young friends of members come alone to the lake to fish. This is too great a risk and is against the rules. Please help us keep trespassers out of the lake and off of the docks. Please try to get the license tag number and call your neighborhood watch block captain or the police non-emergency number (630-0500) if you suspect that there are trespassers there.

Once again this year we have had a great response to the renewal of the annual Association dues. The dues you pay help keep up the property values of your homes. However, a little over 12% of the residents have not paid their dues this year. Please give attention and "due" your part if you have not yet paid.

Your Board of Directors has been exploring ways to utilize the undeveloped portion of the common grounds. James Baker, a current Board member has agreed to chair a committee to examine the options. If you are interested in volunteering for this committee please let me know. If you have ideas please send them to James or to me.

Perhaps you have noticed some lighter traffic on Belfort Rd. We believe that this is because the new Gate Parkway is now open all the way to Southside, resulting in less traffic.

The Board, especially me, wants to thank Neal Taylor and Jenny Suber for their recent effort to stop the Land Use change for the property on Belfort Rd. Unfortunately, the wellness center proposal passed the city planning and city council. Sadly, our own City Council Representative voted in favor of the center. Construction should begin soon. It is our belief that this will only trigger additional land development requests. If you see signs or receive a notice please let us know right away.

Perhaps this is a good time to remind each of us that the Secret Cove Civic Association has a Web site. If you have not visited our page please give it a try. The address is www.neighborhoodlink.com/jacksonville/scca

Bill Cheek, SCCA President

GARDENING WITH BECKY

Well, it's that time again, as the recent, welcome downpours have reminded us. Now is the time to prepare the yard for tropical storms and hurricanes. The most important thing we have to prepare are the trees in our yard.

Our trees are just a real treasure in Secret Cove. If you don't believe me, drive through a new neighborhood, with its bare bones and hot, dry yards.

With the winds and rains that come in late summer and fall, it's important that our trees are healthy. Trees that are pruned correctly are much better at handling the wind than trees left unpruned or pruned incorrectly. The University of Florida has tested this in a wind tunnel with 120 mph winds.

When you look at the trees in your yard, make a special point of looking at the way the branches divide. If you see a split where two main branches stretch up competitively in a V shape, you are looking at a future problem. As the two branches grow up, they push against each other, weakening the hold each one of them has on the tree base. Eventually, one half of the tree may shear off. I have seen this happen in several trees in Secret Cove, and I see quite a few trees that are waiting for it to happen.

If you have this situation, it doesn't mean removing the tree, and it may not even mean removing the whole large branch. That decision would have to be made based on the individual situation.

And the correct person to make that decision should be a licensed arborist. Yes, I know (painfully well) that will cost more than the guy who just drives around. However, I can look at a neighbor's trees every day that were trimmed by a guy who told me he was "an artist with a chain saw." Those trees are in various stages of premature death because they were topped (which should never be done to a tree) and hacked, allowing insects and diseases to move into the wounds. Several other trees he "artistically" trimmed have since been removed because they died. Find a licensed arborist at <http://www.isa-arbor.com/findArborist/verifyArbByPostal.aspx>

If your sprinkler is still set to run, consider turning it to off. If you come home one day and it has taken on that characteristic blue/gray color and wilted, you can safely wait until the next morning to water without any repercussions to the lawn.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Thanks again to the volunteers who turned out for our Neighborhood Workday on April 14 and those who volunteered for a follow up workday on May 5. This allowed us to complete our Park Improvement Project and fulfill our agreement with the City for their Matching Funds Program. The required paperwork was then submitted and we received a check from the Mayor's office on May 15 for \$5,000. This will help to offset our costs for the tennis courts and other improvements made in our park.

Several weeks ago, a request was made to the Public Works Department to mow and clean the drainage ditch that runs between the park and the homes on Hidden Lake Drive West and behind Boatwright Way. Public Works completed this job on June 6. With this, along with other improvements, I think our park looks great and we hope that our members will enjoy it for many years to come.

If you have any questions, or know of anything that needs attention, please contact me at 367-0792. Thanks.

Doc Bolden
Building and Grounds

YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS

February: Mark & Dianne Adams 3236 Hidden Lake Dr. E.
March: Robert & Joy Daugherty 3345 Compass Rose Dr. E
April: Reggie & Charlene Exum 3505 Sloop Pl.
May: Randy & Diane Groger 3316 Hidden Lake Dr.E.
June: Doug & Kathy Carlisle 8241 Old Port Circle N.

Congratulations to all of our Winners!!!!

With all of the much needed rains, Secret Cove yards are looking so good. It will be very difficult to choose next month. So....all of you Association Members keep up the good work with your yards and you just might be our next winner.

Good Luck!
Your "Yard" Committee

Mulch will help moderate the temperatures for the roots of your plants and keep weeds down. Installing a leaky hose or other kind of drip irrigation for shrubs and flowering plants will be a big help in preventing diseases.

Other than that, take the summer off!

Becky Wern
739-1939

Advertisements

BABYSITTING ~

**Hello. My name is Halley Neaves.
I baby-sit everyday and I have no limits.
You can hear all about me ... I have many
references.**

**You can reach me at either of these
numbers:**

Cell: (904)-207-8134

Home:(904)-636-0463

*****PS. For the Secret Cove social, I'm
available. *****

FOR SALE

2 Women's Beach Cruiser bicycles

Good Condition

\$25 each

Call Mary at 343-3886

FOR SALE

Large Metal frame Dog Kennel

\$25

Call Mary at 343-3886

FOR SALE

Patio table and chairs

\$50

Call Amanda at 233-1854

**Do you love to read? I do and
would love to start a book club
here in Secret Cove. If anyone
is interested, please contact
Jenny Suber at 737-9699.**

The Adventures of Zack and Mack

Zack looked over at his twin sister, Mack. He wouldn't let her beat him today. He picked up the pace on his bike and inched ahead of her. She got a look on her face that meant she wasn't going to let him win easily. They had turned onto Boatwright and were head to head when a cat jumped out in front of them. Zack swerved and Mack flew into the hedge in Mr. Rogers' front yard. Mrs. Rogers, a nice lady in her seventies, came rushing out the door, a look of panic on her softly wrinkled face. "Mackenzie Jones, are you ok?"

Mack had her hands on her hips, staring at her bike like it was solely to blame for the mishap. She began brushing herself off while assuring Mrs. Rogers she was indeed ok. Zack came bounding over from across the street with a grin on his face.

Mack shot him a look of warning before shoving him playfully. "Don't you say a word, little brother."

He rolled his eyes. "Little? We're twins, genius."

Mack righted her bike. "Yeah, but I came first, even if it was only by a second."

Mrs. Rogers looked from one to the other and laughed heartily. "All right you two. I'm just glad you didn't get yourself hurt. Come in and get a snack."

Zack spoke first. "Mrs. Rogers, you don't have to feed us every time we ride by."

Mrs. Rogers turned and raised one eyebrow. "Oh really, Mr. Zack? Well, in that case I'll put my chocolate chip macadamia nut cookies in the freezer..."

Mack was following her inside already licking her lips. "No, I'll eat his."

Zack ran up behind his sister. "No, you won't."

Zack and Mack sat at the small kitchen table. Zack always liked this little kitchen with all its herbs and plants growing on every window sill. Mrs. Rogers poured three glasses of milk and set a plate of cookies in the middle of the table. Zack and Mack

dug in. Mack looked up from her plate with a curious expression. "Hey Mrs. Rogers?"

"Yes, Mackenzie?"

"How long have you lived here?"

"In Jacksonville or in Secret Cove?"

The twins responded in unison. "Secret Cove."

"Well, let me think about that." The elderly woman smiled as if remembering. "Mr. Rogers and I moved in when our children were around your age. The funniest thing happened when we moved in..."

Ok, kids. Help the story out. The first one to email jeromy.williams@comcast.net with the correct answers will win five Chick-Fil-A kid's meals.

When was Secret Cove developed?

Give one fact about the lake in the middle of the neighborhood.

Write a paragraph describing the funny thing that happened when Mr. and Mrs. Rogers moved in the neighborhood. The winning story will be the starting off point for the next edition of The Adventures of Zack and Mack.

RANTS & RAVES

Now is your chance! We are starting a new column next issue which will include your brief rants and raves about Secret Cove and our surrounding area. Email them to jeromy.williams@comcast.net. We will not identify the authors, we ask for good judgment and we reserve the right to choose which submittals to print.

Examples:

- (1) Many thanks to those many drivers who slow down for us walkers and runners in Secret Cove - still the best community. (*Rave*)
- (2) A word of caution to those who let their pets run loose to soil their neighbors' yards - I will call animal control. So if your pet is missing, you know where to look. A little concern for your neighbors will be greatly appreciated. (*Rant*)
- (3) I understand that roundabouts are under consideration for Touchton Rd. and I must offer that this is one of the dumbest ideas I have heard. Can't someone talk some sense into the city? (*Rant*)

So c'mon Secret Cove -- let's hear from you.

COME OUT AND JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS FOR SECRET COVE'S 2007 JULY 4TH CELEBRATION!!!

50/50 Drawing

Contact Roger Deary 737-0719

Secret Cove will donate 50% of the money collected to Daniel Memorial School Supply Fund. Buy your tickets today. Tickets will also be sold on the 4th. Last year over \$1,500 in sales!!! Drawing 2:00 p.m. on the 4th. Don't need to be present to win. Tickets sell 12 for \$10 and 24 for \$20.

Tuesday, July 3rd

Fishing Tournament 6:00PM to 7:00PM

Fisher-persons will compete from the North and South docks for the largest Bass and most fish caught. Prizes will be awarded on the 4th. Fishing only from shore – no boats.

Boat Race 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 3rd

Race will start at the South Dock, navigating a short pylon (obstacle) course. Electric and / or Hand power only. No gas engines. Anything that floats allowed.

July 4th

SCCA One Mile Fun Run 8:00 a.m.

Coordinated by Mike Perkins

Sign-in at the South Dock Area at 8:00am, run begins at 8:15 am. The runners will complete one lap around the Lake. Prizes will be awarded for the fastest runners; boys and girls ages 10 and under, boys and girls ages 11-16, men and women ages 17 to 25, men and women ages 26 to 39, men and women ages 40+ (Grand Geezer Division) and the Chariots of Fire Baby Jogger Division (Mom's, Dads and Junior Navigators).

SCCA Annual Parade

10:00 a.m. – line up at 9:30

Coordinated by Dale Lewis 731-9598

From the main entrance of Secret Cove at the Ray Park Entrance participants leading the 2007 Parade will be the Grand Marshall, Jacksonville Fire Department, Jacksonville Police Department, Decorated Bikes, Scooters, Wagons, Floats, Joggers, (anything that moves), SCCA Famous Lawn Mower Brigade, Women's Club, Clowns, Cheerleaders and any and all parade participants. BE CREATIVE! Please call Dale before July 4th if you have any questions 731-9598. Line up begins at 9:30 a.m.

SCCA Annual Picnic

11:30 a.m. grills HOT

Join the festivities at the Pavilion. Bring your grill-able food and enjoy the surroundings and get to know your neighbors. Secret Cove will supply hot grills beginning at 11:30, soft drinks, condiments, plates, utensils, and a humongous water slide for the kids (and

young-at-heart adults). **You grill your own food.** Music, games and celebration will fill the air. Award ceremony will be held at 1:30. So join in the fun and meet your neighbors and celebrate this wonderful annual event.

Field Games

11:30 to 1:30

The name says it all. Fun in the field!!! Kids and grown-ups alike. Sack race, Three-legged, egg toss, etc.

Dessert Judging

12:30 p.m. sharp

Jacksonville's Firemen will taste and judge all of the great desserts. See back of flyer – 5 different classes of desserts and one overall Best in Show!!!

Pool Games

1:30 p.m.

Coordinated by Jill Duffy 730-5064

Join the fun relax by the pool, play games and visit with your neighbors. It's not just for children!!! Lifeguards will be on hand. Bring your sunscreen and your spirits.

RAIN or SHINE – See you on the 4th; Brought to you by YOUR Secret Cove Civic Association.

Feel free to contact Ken Gula 732-7068 with any questions or comments or if you would like to volunteer. Volunteers always needed!!!

2nd Annual Delicious Dessert Bake-Off

Are you known for your scrumptious desserts? Do all your guests just rave about your apple pie? Does everyone ask for “seconds” when you whip up grandma’s secret chocolate cake recipe? Here’s your chance to earn that Blue Ribbon we are all sure that you deserve! Everyone is Encouraged to enter!!

All kinds of delectable desserts are welcome. Judges will be impartial, such as our local Fireman. To add a little more zip and excitement to this event the Best in Show will also take home **all** the entry fees (\$2). We will have several categories for you to compete. You choose the category that best fits your dessert. Please email Jill Duffy at: jaduffy@juno.com for all the details and your entry slip. Or call her at 730-5064.

- **Best in Show!**

First Place Ribbon and all Entry Fees!!

Ribbon Categories:

- Chocolate Desserts
- Baked Cakes and Pies
- Fruitful Desserts
- Chilled Desserts
- Best Presentation



Secret Cove Civic Association women members are welcome to be a part of the **Kitchen Brigade** during the 4th of July parade. Just bring pots, pans, and spoons (or whatever culinary noisemaker you can find) and get ready to make some noise. Email or call Kathy Cheek for more details.

Communique

Fall 2007

Volume 22, Issue 3

**Secret Cove
Community
Newsletter**

President's Message

**Get to know your
Secret Cove Board
of Directors:**

President:

Bill Cheek
737-3032

Vice President:

Roger Deary
737-0719

Treasurer:

Hugh Dever
733-7609

Secretary:

Ken Gula
732-7068

Board Members:

James Baker
443-7733
George Bollinger
739-8030
Neal Taylor
730-2489
Laura Veek
636-7806
Karen Weise
739-7447

City Service

630-2489

Animal Control

387-8846

Phone Solicitors

630-3467

Electricity/Water

665-6000

**Garbage or Yard
Waste**

387-8999

Neighbor's

Unkempt Yard

630-4957

At our Annual Secret Cove Civic Association Meeting in January we asked for volunteers to help with a variety of jobs here in the neighborhood. Several of you responded that you would like to help. This was our first attempt to gather the names of our residents who might be interested in volunteer work. I apologize to those who volunteered and were not contacted. We had a list of new volunteers but failed to contact everyone and first thank them for volunteering and second ask all who volunteered to do something. To insure that we do not repeat our mistake, I have appointed Mike Wilson and Laurel Veek to help coordinate the volunteers with the tasks.

Once again I asked for volunteers at our Semi-Annual meeting on August 30th. It is not too late to volunteer. Please contact Ken Gula at 732-7068.

At the August meeting we approved the formation of a Special Committee to explore ways to use the undeveloped land beyond the bathhouse. Jamie Baker was appointed to chair this effort. If you have any interest in participating in this process please contact Jamie at 443-7733. Jamie has committed to having a report for the Annual meeting which will be January 29, 2008.

Please save the date for the fall social which is October 13th at the pavilion. There will be more specific information soon.

Once again I would like to remind you that our beautiful lake is a treasure. We take pride in the way we maintain it. We encourage all Association Members to take advantage of the lake. Please remember, it is reserved for dues-paid members and their guests only. Your friends who are not members of the Association cannot use the facilities unless you accompany them to the lake. Recently, we have had young friends of members come alone to the lake to fish. This is too great a risk and is against the rules. Please help us keep trespassers out of the lake and off of the docks. Please try to get the license tag number and call your neighborhood watch block captain or the police non-emergency number (630-0500) if you suspect that there are trespassers there.

We are told that construction on the traffic rotaries is about to start on Belfort. If there is any interest in trying to stop their installation please contact Neil Taylor and Jenny Suber. Perhaps with the budget cuts that we anticipate in the city budget we can ask them to cancel the construction. If enough of you are interested Neil and Jenny can put a petition in motion for City Council.

On August 9th we participated in the National Night Out. Garry Weise chaired the planning committee for the event. At his request the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office sent a speaker and we had an ice cream social at the pavilion for the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains and as special guest all the residents who are now or were law enforcement officers. Our plan for next year is to participate with a more formal program. We will have details at the Annual Meeting.

Perhaps this is a good time to remind each of us that the Secret Cove Civic Association has a Web site. If you have not visited our page please give it a try. The address is www.neighborhoodlink.com/jacksonville/scca

Bill Cheek
SCCA President

GARDENING WITH BECKY

Fall is in the air, and it's time to make some changes in the landscape.

Fertilizers should not be applied after September. This is true for citrus and other fruit trees, woody ornamentals, turf grass, and perennials. Fertilizer would continue to stimulate growth, and it would be better for the plants to stop growing and ease in to a semi dormant state for winter. Exceptions to this rule are fall and winter vegetables and flowers.

If you want to reduce the weeding in plant beds, try using multiple layers of newspaper under mulch. It takes several months to break down, and can be replaced easily. Weed cloth is a popular choice, but I find it frustrating that so many weeds either push through it or root on top of it.

As leaves fall, it's a good idea to get them off your lawn, as they can create a nice moist zone for fungi. Don't be in a hurry to get rid of them, though. They will provide good nutrients to your shrubs – use them as mulch or under your mulch around trees and shrubs.

It is not a good idea to trim your woody plants now. Trimming branches stimulates the production of growth hormones, and growth would definitely not prepare the plants for winter. Plus, spring flowering plants already have their tiny buds formed – trimming them would remove the flowers.

Be on alert for lawn caterpillars. Small tan moths can be seen on some lawns, flying up as you walk across the grass. A week later, some cropped areas might appear as the caterpillars chomp on the grass. Quick recognition is important. Pest control operators can't see your lawn every day – you can. Call your lawn care company or look for a lawn pesticide to stop the caterpillars!

Weeds? The best option is to pull them right now. And guess what? Pulling weeds for 10 minutes a day can be very therapeutic AND very effective!

Becky Wern
739-1939

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Several residents have noticed that Algae recently has been spreading in several areas over the Lake; this happens almost every year in August. Also, there are some areas that are heavy with Hydrillia and Naiad underneath the surface. The Lake Doctor has been treating the lake twice monthly and this is helping to control the growth. We may need to add grass eating Carp during the cooler months to help with this problem. At the Membership meeting on August 30, it was brought to our attention that there is a depression in the street on Hidden Lake Drive, West, where Secret Cove Drive (Main Entrance) connects. This has been a problem for several years at this location. The Streets and Drainage Department and JEA were contacted on August 31. A supervisor with Public Works inspected the site on September 5 and reported it was the responsibility of the JEA. We will follow up on this.

The weeds and other growth are getting very high and dense in the City drainage ditch that runs between the Park and homes on Hidden Lake, West, and Boatwright Way. The City has been notified and it should soon be handled.

After completion of our Park Improvement Project, I think the tennis courts, pool, fences, etc., look very good. The road leading into the Park gets very dusty during dry spells and we are looking at ways to improve or correct this problem.

Another recent project was the installation of Ceiling Fans in the Pavilion the 1st of July. Those that have used the Pavilion during the hot summer months for picnics, etc., have expressed their appreciation for the fans.

We probably won't need to have another Workday until next Spring. There are a few minor items that will soon need attention but there are always some that are willing to help when called on. This is always appreciated.

If you know of anything that needs attention, please contact me at 367-0792. Thanks.

Doc Bolden

FALL SOCIAL

Where: SCCA Pavilion

When: October 7

Time: 9:00 PM

(This date should not interfere with all the football games!)

Who: Adults and members only

Food: Bring your favorite appetizer to share.

Drinks: Soft drinks, paper items and water provided by the Association. If you would like something stronger, you may bring it with you.

RSVP: Jenny Suber at 737-9699 or suberjen@bellsouth.net

(We need to have a head count in order to estimate party supplies.)

We have several events during the year for the children and families. The Association feels this is a nice way for the adults to meet and get to know each other. Secret Cove is 30 years old this year and what better way to celebrate our good fortune to live in this neighborhood. Please plan to join us!

LAZY GOURMET

Many thanks to those couples who have hosted our Lazy Gourmet restaurant outings as they have strongly contributed to the variety and success of our group. Italian, Greek, Chinese, Japanese, German, French, Southern, Southwestern, Mexican, American and perhaps several we really couldn't identify - we've done them all!

Routinely, we get together about ten times a year with anywhere from ten to twenty couples and some singles. We dine, exchange pleasantries and get caught up on the latest happenings in Secret Cove. New faces are always welcome, so, if you would like to get on our mailing list, give us a call at 737-0719 or email us at Carolroger@comcast.net

Roger & Carol Deary

POOL UPDATE

We've had a great summer at the pool. October 1st is the planned date to close the pool. Thank you to each of you who has volunteered to close the pool, called me to alert me about problems at the pool, or chosen to tidy up at the pool. This is a community pool, and you are the heart of the pool!

Becky Wern

RANTS AND RAVES

No one likes animal waste in their yard. As an animal owner I would never want to offend anyone and would much appreciate open communication and the chance to correct the problem then (sic) to see an innocent animal picked up by animal control. If you don't feel comfortable speaking to the neighbor, place an anonymous letter in their mailbox to voice your concern. If no corrective action is taken then animal control may be the only solution.

This is a rant for all y'all that maybe can not read or on your phone, lord knows you miss a phone call. This is for all of those that cannot read. When you enter into Secret Cove, they have these tall and very visible signs, they are call STOP SIGNS. Not run thru and cut someone off trying to turn and yes you all so one the phone, or just Floor it way past the speed limit. What if a child happened to walk out into the streets we have you could not stop in time. I guess it will take a child killed before you can read, that is why they have them all over the place. And there is no reason to turn into Port Circle West, and just fly down to the next stop sign....

Anonymous (*Rant unedited*)

The sinkholes that were "filled" at the corner of Secret Cove Dr. & Hidden Lake Dr. W. are already sinking again. Has anyone called the city and complained? They need to be filled correctly instead of hurriedly done halfway!!

Rave – Congratulations to our Alec Lawson for his third place finish in the 23' boat category in this year's recently completed Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament.

FUTURE OF COMMON AREA

How would you like to be part of history? Now is your chance! Secret Cove members are joining together to determine the future of our Common Area on the north side of the swimming pool. This team of people will be using their creativity and expertise to develop potential improvement plans. Many ideas have been offered, like a community center, a park, a storage area for boats, and even a garden! If you are interested in being part of Secret Cove history and offering a little bit of time and a lot of positive ideas, please sign up. Contact Jamie Baker, 443-7733. Volunteers with trade backgrounds in architecture, building contracting, real estate, financial planning, and landscaping would be great!

Common Area Improvement Committee

Communique

Winter 2007

Volume 22, Issue 4

Secret Cove Community Newsletter

Get to know your Secret Cove Board of Directors:

President:

Bill Cheek
737-3032

Vice President:

Roger Deary
737-0719

Treasurer:

Hugh Dever
733-7609

Secretary:

Ken Gula
732-7068

Board Members:

James Baker
443-7733

George Bollinger
739-8030

Neal Taylor
730-2489

Laura Veek
636-7806

Karen Weise
739-7447

City Service

630-2489

Animal Control

387-8846

Phone Solicitors

630-3467

Electricity/Water

665-6000

Garbage or Yard Waste

387-8999

Neighbor's

Unkempt Yard

630-4957

President's Message

As we publish this issue of the *Communique*, we are in the midst of the fall holidays. We have just celebrated Veteran's Day with special emphasis this year on praying for our soldiers on the front lines of the war as they are separated from their families at this time of the year. We are making plans for the celebration of Thanksgiving where we pause to give thanks for our many blessings. We cherish the traditions of turkey, the Detroit Lions Thanksgiving Day Football Game and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. At the same time we are looking forward to Christmas, which is just around the corner. The holidays are a special time of the year. We greet this season with a spirit of giving and well wishes.

The Secret Cove Women's Club has mobilized and is ready for the annual lighting of the streets with the luminaries. Please make plans to bring your ten dollars to the main entrance and pick up your candles and sacks from the volunteers. The sand will be available later. For the past few years the weather has dealt us a setback in having a united luminary. Let's hope that this year we will have good weather and a beautiful luminary display.

Please use extra precautions at this time of year. As you decorate please be careful not to overdo the physical or stretch the limits of the equipment. Please place packages out of sight when leaving them in the car while shopping. Be especially careful and alert to your surroundings to discourage or prevent robberies. Please be sure to lock the doors of your cars parked in the driveway, keep your garage door down and be sure your house door is locked.

It is not too late to be a volunteer; we still have room for you. Please contact Ken Gula at 732-7068 to be placed on the list. To insure that we do not miss anyone who has volunteered, I have appointed Mike Wilson and Laurel Veek to help coordinate the volunteers with the tasks. Please call them with your contact numbers.

At the August Semi-Annual Meeting we approved the formation of a Special Committee to explore ways to use the undeveloped land beyond the bathhouse. Jamie Baker was appointed to chair this effort. If you have any interest in participating in this process please contact Jamie at 443-7733. The committee has had some meetings but it is not too late to participate. Jamie has committed to having a preliminary report for the Annual meeting which will be January 29, 2008.

Once again I would like to remind you that our beautiful lake is a treasure. We take pride in the way we maintain it. We encourage all Association Members to take advantage of the lake. Please remember, it is reserved for dues-paid members and their guests only. Your friends who are not members of the association cannot use the facilities unless you accompany them to the lake. Please help us keep trespassers out of the lake and off of the docks by calling your neighborhood watch block captain or the police non-emergency number (630-0500) if you suspect that there are trespassers there.

Perhaps this is a good time to remind each of us that the Secret Cove Civic Association has a Web site. If you have not visited our page please give it a try. The address is www.neighborhoodlink.com/jacksonville/scca.

On behalf of the board, I wish for each of you a most joyous holiday and happy new year.

Bill Cheek, SCCA President

GARDENING WITH BECKY

Now that the cool weather is here, it's more comfortable to work outside. This is a great time for the big jobs: preparing a new landscape bed, building a raised bed for vegetables, etc.

- Do rake up fallen leaves and pine needles that cover the lawn. Leaving them in place traps moisture on the grass and encourages fungal problems.
- Do use the leaves and needles as mulch around your plants. As they decompose, they will provide nutrients, and beneficial organisms for your plants.
- Don't water in the evening. Although we think of the hotter season as prime time for fungal diseases, some fungi actually reproduce best with cooler temperatures. There is NEVER a time when your lawn can't wait for morning.
- After the leaves fall, look at your trees for crossing and dead branches. These should be removed. Bright green patches during winter are probably mistletoe, a parasitic plant. If you want to remove them, call me for specific instructions.
- Don't fertilize or prune anything right now. Pruning can be done in January on plants that won't be blooming in the spring. Fertilizers should not be applied again until March. The only exception: winter veggies and winter blooming annuals like petunias and pansies.
- Winter is a good time for planting most trees and shrubs. The more tender plants, like citrus, can wait for spring. Remember to water newly planted plants daily for several weeks.

Becky Wern
739-1939

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

We recently made some improvements to our irrigation system at the Main Entrance and at our North Entrance. This included drilling a well at the North Entrance, which was much less costly than a commercial meter. At the Southwest corner of the Main Entrance, sprinkler heads were added and a connection made to the meter, which was already in place within the center island. In the past, we have had problems with plants dying and we should now have sufficient water to keep our entrances looking nice. Our sincere thanks to Danny Suber, Don Clark and Viryl Wilson for their help in the past with watering these areas.

In mid August a request was sent to the City requesting that the weeds, etc., be cut and the ditch be cleaned out that runs between the homes on Hidden Lake Drive, West and the Park, as well as behind Boatwright Way. This was handled the first week of October. They started dredging out the ditch the first of November and this should allow the water to drain and help with our mosquito problem. At this writing, they are still cleaning out the ditch and it will probably be several more days before completed.

The Lake is looking very good and with the cooler weather and proper treatment, the algae has disappeared. Also, the growth of Hydrilla and Naiad underneath the surface is now under control.

The motor for the pool pump recently burned out and had to be replaced. The motor was still under warranty but we will still have to pay installation costs and the cost for a small fan to help cool the motor during the summer months.

If you know of any problem or item that needs repair, please contact me at 367-0792. Thanks.

Doc Bolden

YARD OF THE MONTH

Well, our hard yard work is just about over for a few months – now the lovely leaves and nuts are falling – Joy! This is our last "Yard" until January as our Christmas Decorations will take the stage in December. We think the yards have looked very good even through the dry spells and the RAINS. All of us here in the Cove should be very proud of our little "community" and the pride that our members take it keeping up their homes and yards – we are very lucky!!

Winners

October: Barry & Polly Grey
8379 Compass Rose Dr. S.
November: Tim & Mary Ann O'Keefe
3520 Banqueting Rd.

Congratulations to our winners!
Have a Great Holiday Season!!
Your "Yard" Committee

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Your Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) met on 11.13.07 for our annual re-certification training. The group reviewed police reports, crime statistics, shared crime related information, concerns and prevention ideas. Your Block Captains wanted to remind all Secret Cove residents that as the Holidays approach we all need to be more alert to prevent potential crimes of opportunity.

For example, be sure to pick up your mail and newspaper daily. If you will be away ask a neighbor to pick them up for you or have the Post Office and newspaper hold them until you return. Last year a number of our residents had their mail rifled. Also, it is recommended you put outgoing mail in a U.S. Mail drop box and never use the flag on your mailbox. Even if you notify the newspaper it's good to have a neighbor check too. Many of your neighbors have had problems with the newspaper not responding to stop delivery requests.

Hugh Dever, one of our block captains, shared the following ideas to reduce the risk of being a victim of crime or circumstances. If you have a remote car lock with a panic button on your key chain think of it as a security alarm system that requires no installation. It will go off from most anywhere in your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it. It works if you park in your driveway or garage. Put your keys beside your bed at night. If you hear someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The odds are the criminal won't stick around.

When walking to your car in a parking lot remember your alarm can work the same way. This approach is also useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone. It has been suggested that older people carry their car keys with them in case they fall outside and need assistance. They can activate the car alarm and others will be alerted that there is a problem. If you want similar protection when you aren't near your car consider buying and carrying a personal alarm with you.

Currently our program is updating our Block Captain assignments. If you don't know who your Block Captain is look in the Secret Cove Directory's Street Listing for the address with an "*". There have been a few changes since the Directory was published. If you find you need an update, have questions, or would like to volunteer to be a Block Captain contact Bill Courtney 733-2122 Home, 707-0778 Cell or Gary Weise 739-7447 Home.

Remember Neighborhood Watch works when you and your neighbors work together by keeping a watchful eye and ear on each other's safety and property.

SECRET COVE WOMEN'S CLUB

If you were one of the Secret Cove women who stayed at home on Monday night, September 10th, you missed a great pizza party at the Pavilion... or, on October 1st a chance to socialize with 22 of your neighbors... or, on November 10th, to get some answers for your home remodeling questions.

If you stay home on the first Monday from January through April you will miss hearing about what it's like to work for Habitat for Humanity in a foreign country, or learn from an interior designer, or a landscaper, or do a spring craft. Oh, we can't forget the pot luck dinners in December and May. You can do all of this, plus have lots of fun - just by joining the *Secret Cove Women's Club*. For information call Karen Weise at 739-7447

Right now we're getting ready for our annual Luminary Sale, and the Christmas Decoration Contest. Enclosed in your Communiqué is a flyer with all the information about these events. We suggest that you keep it handy so that you can participate in all the holiday happenings.

RANTS AND RAVES

Some thoughts for your consideration.

1. Folks with dogs should not leave home and put their dogs in the yard to bark for hours on end.
2. Our neighbors who walk /run on our roads might consider it safer to walk on the left, facing traffic.
3. With all our flags flying, some should take a look at the condition of the flag and maybe replace it with a new one.

Vic Donnelly

This is a rant about trailers parked on the streets that cars could hit and cause an accident, and also about unlicensed vehicles parked in driveways for long periods of time.

For Sale

Condo-for sale by owner (Secret Cove resident)
Southbrook-2 Br-2 Bath. Ground floor. 1,000 sq. ft.
\$115, 900. Furnished. Go to
www.condofsbojax.com, or call 733-7088. Thank
you. Mary Thornton 2508
Boatwright Way W.

The Perfect Gift!

Don't forget, Christmas is around the corner. What
better time to purchase a signed copy of Amanda
Williams' novel, *Becoming Visible*? If you are
interested, please contact the author at
jeromy.williams@comcast.net or call at 904-233-
1854.

FYI

My son lost his hunting rifles in their gun case. We
think they fell out of the bed of his truck on Sunday,
November 11 around 10:15 am. If anyone has any
information or found them, we are offering a reward
for their return.

Thank you,
Melody Barrs
651 1480

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For References, call your neighbor
Ann Tillinghast



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