



THE PLANTATION PALMS

MAY 2025

Reader

THE OFFICIAL *Newsletter* OF PLANTATION PALMS

from the PRESIDENT

Save
The Date



**Investment Club Meeting
May 6th**

Book Club – May 6th

**ARC Monthly Meeting
(if needed) – May 5th**

**Fining Review Committee
May 13th**

**HOA Monthly Board
Meeting – May 15th**

**HOA Special Meetings –
May 15, June 19, July 17th**

Cigar Night – May 25th

Fall Garage Sale Oct. 26th

Years ago, when we lived up north, we would say, April showers bring May flowers. Spring was a season. It's a little different here in Florida, we haven't had showers, we transition into 90 degrees pretty quickly, and there are not many flowers. That's OK, we enjoy paradise 365 days a year. All of our communities here look so nice, we have volunteers and landscapers keeping things fresh looking.

Thank you, Scott Wickham, for publishing last month's Reader article while Diane and I were on a cruise thru the new Panama Canal. It was an amazing trip, and we weren't sure whether 15 days was too much or too little time to be sailing. We'll find out soon as we have a few more cruises coming up over the next couple of months.

Update on the Bulk Trash Deal

It's been challenging to get our homeowners to take any action on this initiative to save money. At the April 17th Special Meeting we announced the voting results, 250 votes, 241 yes, 9 no. 149 of the votes were done through a-voting, the balance on paper proxies. We need 542 yes votes. As a result of this we kept the vote open and adjourned the Special Meeting till May 18th, when we'll open the Special Meeting for a new vote count. Under Florida law our proxies (votes) are only good for 90 days from April 17th.

The next phase of this project will be volunteer members of the Plantation Palms doing sign-up events and even going door to door.

The Waste Connections bulk offer is \$60 per quarter, including trash/recycle bins, which is a fair savings from what most of us in the community are paying now, \$88 per quarter.

Since it is a bulk agreement, Waste Connections would bill the HOA, eliminating your quarterly individual billing. Based on this proposal, the annual HOA dues would increase by \$240. They've agreed to a 5% cap on increases starting in year 2 (2027). Unless you have already purchased your trash can you'll save over \$100/year for the same exact services. If you own trash cans, you'll still save money. The HOA Board has contacted other trash companies approved by Pasco County and Waste Connections \$60 is the lowest bid, some refused to bid when they heard we were already serviced by WC.

We Need Your Vote - Now

All homeowners should express their choice, do you want a Bulk Deal or not. It's so easy to get involved, you can also take advantage of e-voting or paper proxies. E-voting is an option on the HOA homeowner's website (portal), just click on the icon and follow the instructions. We recently sent a cover letter and hard copy of the paper proxy to all owners; we'd gladly accept a paper proxy.

We have three residents who have graciously volunteered their time and efforts to lead the charge to collect votes: Dawn Lifrieri – master HOA, TC Daerda – the Reserve and Beth Hodge – Savanna. They will each be looking for additional volunteers so if you would like to exercise your goodwill and help with this project, please contact them or any board member and we'll get you started.

Community Updates

1. Due to a price increase to the HOA, RFID tags for the entrance to the community at night are now \$20.

Continued on page 5



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Madlynne Harding

Condominium Associates

2019 Osprey Lane Lutz, FL 33559

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mharding@condominiumassociates.com

Volunteering increases social interaction and helps build a support system based on common interests. One of the best ways to make new friends and strengthen existing relationships is to participate in a shared activity. Dedicating time as a volunteer helps expand social network and practice social skills with others.

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Website and Facebook Information...

There is a new website for Condominium Associates – it is <https://condo.cinwebaxis.com/>.

If you had an account before, you can go to the site and click "forgot my password" and you will be sent a link to set up a new password. If you never registered before you can register on the site. If you have any problems or questions you can contact the Association and they will assist in setting up your account.

Plantation Palms HOA is on Facebook. Check out the link and join in at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/502894743220130/>

Savanna Board of Directors

Jane Pope – President

maryjanepope@gmail.com

Paul Oreck – Treasurer

taoreck@gmail.com

Joanna Cherry – Secretary

Snoww88@aol.com

James Kohl – Director

Jimk.in.fl@gmail.com

Keith Nicoulini - Director

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Savanna Property Manager

Condominium Associates

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Property Manager

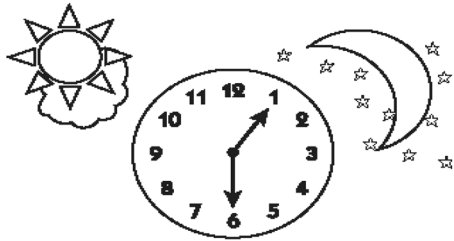
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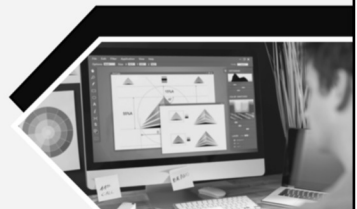
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President's Letter Continued...

2. Over the last several years we've had a lot of new homeowners, so I thought I'd mention that if you want to do any work on the outside of your house or on your property, you'll need ARC approval. For example, house painting, a new roof, patio, windows, enlarging a patio etc. All ARC requests are submitted online from the HOA homeowner's website. If you aren't sure just file one or contact a board member.

3. Just an update on the SWFWMD 3C pond maintenance project. We are still working with a contractor to finalize a bid to the golf club for this repair. The golf club will execute a contract, and we'll pay our 50% share. If you find drainage issues on HOA property, please contact us.

4. Lawsuit update. The plaintiffs have again delayed this trial for another year, it will hopefully take place in 2026. The suit was filed in 2018.

5. If you haven't been to Mulligan's in a while you might want to check out the new chefs, they have been adding nightly specials that are amazing.

6. The HOA Leaders consortium I founded 2 years ago has grown to 78 communities. Because of this growth we have moved to bi-monthly Zoom meetings. Sharing best practices with other HOA's has been very valuable. We have been able to help other communities deal with issues and save money. Nick Deliso, the Reserve president, Jane Pope, the Savanna president and our Scott Wickham have been active participants. It's amazing to see how many communities have followed our lead in restricting the growth of future rentals and benefiting from Spectrum non-bulk agreements.

You can get additional community information on this site: <https://ppgolfcourse.wordpress.com>

Diane and I always look forward to enjoying dinner at Mulligan's so please stop by and say hi.

Best Wishes,
Jim Hammond
President

FROM THE DESK OF THE SAVANNA AT PLANTATION PALMS HOA PRESIDENT:

Hello! Savanna Neighbors.

Check out the Condominium Associates website (<https://condo.cincwebaxis.com/>) to get all the latest updates and access to our governing documents. The Condominium Associates website and link to our community is the "Official" Savanna forum of information. It contains meeting minutes, the governing documents, as well as any additional communications to the community.

Please report suspicious activity to the NON-EMERGENCY Pasco County Sheriff's Office – 727-847-8102

1. Next quarterly meeting for Savanna in 2025 is scheduled for **Thursday, August 7 at 6:30p ET** at the Condo Associates offices, 2019 Osprey Lane, Lutz. Mark your calendars. Hope to see you there.

2. Savanna HOA quarterly fees are due Apr 1 (currently \$172.42) The quarterly fees are due on the first day of quarter (Jan 1, Apr 1, Jul1, and Oct 1). Collection Policy. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR and pay the assessment on time – or better yet, set up a scheduled ACH payment.

3. **SPRING CLEANING!!!** With Spring upon us, please walk your property and address any clean-up activities – like low-hanging tree branches blocking sidewalks and roadways (i.e., Pasco County requires an 8' clearance), power washing driveways and sidewalks, and sprucing up those flower beds. Neighborhood inspections are planned and violation letters will be mailed to those out of compliance.

4. **Gate Code Reset Project.** In the coming months, every homeowner will be issued ****NEW**** randomly generated gate codes. We will be sharing additional information on our HOA portal (link above). At the appropriate time gate codes will be mailed or hand-delivered to each homeowner. The codes will be activated on September 1.

Always feel free to reach out if you have questions.

Jane Pope President



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Don't forget to join our Facebook page for complete and accurate community information, open to ALL residents at, "HOA PLANTATION PALMS THE RESERVE". One of our admins will approve your request. You can also send a question to the Board at thereserve2020@gmail.com

Nick Deliso

From the Desk of the Reserve HOA President:**SPRING HAS QUICKLY TURNED TO SUMMER!**

Who thought that we would be fighting humidity and temps in the low 90's during the month of April? While the mornings start out cool, the early afternoons quickly become uncomfortable. Not a good sign for us. Now, if we could only get some rain. They say it's coming so fingers crossed.

We have had some home sales closing over the past few weeks, with a few "pending" sales out there. We continue to be a very desirable community. Let's keep it that way by keeping our homes looking clean and fresh. This goes a long way in helping all homes sell quickly, and at good value, helping us all!

LANDSCAPING:

Our lawns are looking a bit stressed due to the lack of rain. While we are not permitted to turn our irrigation systems on more than once per week, we are allowed to "hand water" them. If your lawn is drying out, please consider doing so. Let's not blame the landscapers (as many normally do) for what Mother Nature is not providing us. Trees were recently trimmed, and the feedback on that project was positive. Please advise if your home was missed. We are also reverting back to weekly servicing and will move back to Wednesday's. Thanks Lorraine for your leadership in landscaping!

SIDEWALK PARKING:

As always, there are those that insist on parking across the sidewalks. Please refrain from doing so as it forces people and pets into the streets.

DOG POOP:

I'd really like to stop discussing this but there are those who insist on not picking up after their pets. Please don't be that person.

POOL:

With the heat hitting us early our pool has been very busy. Since hiring West Coast Water Tech we have had no issues with the waters chemical balance, making it safe for all to swim. No secret that Loren is out there checking as well. We recently had an inspection and had no issue regarding water quality. We cannot thank Eryn enough for what she does. Definitely a monkey off of our backs. Thank you to those who have been closing the umbrellas at the pool. Open, unattended umbrellas can cause damage should the afternoon winds kick up. This is your pool, please take care of it. Also remember that you are responsible for your guests as well.

Need a pool key? Please do not hesitate to reach out to our Pool Chairperson, Julia Whitley (juliavwhitley@gmail.com). She'll be more than happy to assist you. Thanks Julia!

Let's not forget that the pool parking lot is to be used for those using the pool. If you have a special need that requires temporary use of the parking lot please contact a Board member.

FINANCIALS:

Rob Walker continues to reinvest our funds in Bank CD's. Rates have dropped a bit and he is doing his best to get us the best rates. Rest assured, financially we are in fantastic shape! Thanks Rob for a job well done.

OUTSTANDING MONTHLY ASSESSMENTS:

We still have many small outstanding balances so I'll again ask that you take the time to review your accounts, even if you think you are fully paid.

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS:

Welcome to our new residents, and please don't be shy about meeting your new neighbors. If you have yet to receive an email from the Board chances are we do not have your email address, so please contact us at thereserve2020@gmail.com. I'd be happy to come by and say "Hi".

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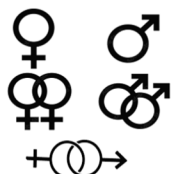
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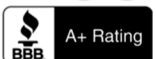


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From the Desk of the Reserve HOA President Continued...

BULK TRASH PICKUP DEAL:

The project regarding "Bulk Trash Pickup" is in full swing! Please hand in your PROXY/BALLOT as soon as possible. The mailbox in the pool area is convenient to all. Our volunteers, led by TC, will be knocking on doors shortly. Need a ballot? Email the Board at thereserve2020@gmail.com.

Please don't hesitate to vote on the Master HOA PORTAL, via e-vote, or just fill out the Proxy and drop it in the mailbox by the pool.

DCCR'S (OUR GOVERNING DOCUMENTS):

As you know the first draft of the document has been sent out, and some of you have submitted your comments. Thank you for your suggestions. Once the comment period is over, May 1, we will send out a response to these comments. Naturally the attorney will review and advise. Thus far all comments seemed acceptable. As of this writing we are still receiving a few more, but they seem to be the same as what we already have received. As stated in the last Board meeting we will discuss once all comments have been received and reviewed.

It was very disappointing that the "Mob Mentality" has made its way to our Board meetings. After stating that we would review ALL comments after the comment period has closed there was a small group of disrupters who bullied the Board, who, by the way, followed Florida Statute 720 to the letter of the law. No surprise as it's the same crowd, always. It's also no surprise that these same people will state that the Board was rude and disrespectful, when it was, in fact, they who were disrespectful to the Board, and others who attended, by disrupting an Official Board meeting. This Board will not be bullied and will respond firmly.

Regarding all the "Anonymous" posts on Facebook, well, come out of the shadows (though everyone really knows who you are) and post on a page that the entire community can access. Let's forget that the administrator of this "other" page has not only banned me prior to my joining the Board, but deleted any post that she did not agree with. Is this really who we want to hear from? And posting under a spouse's name is just as bad. Perhaps I'll follow your rules and not allow anyone not on the deed from accessing my page. Bye-Bye hubby. This Board has not retaliated against anyone, as one resident posted. Sorry that you received a letter for installing ripped screens over your windows. Sorry for sending you a letter for not following rules that you were once responsible for enforcing. Sorry for pointing out the many times you and your Board violated Florida Statute 720. The "Rules for Thee, Yet Not for Me" days are over. We are all treated equally and everything is done with full transparency. Residents, while I cannot stop anyone from reading the "Enquirer", please get your information from a reliable source. Though this community does not have (on advice by our attorney) an "Official" HOA FB page (and official business is not conducted here) "HOA-Plantation Palms The Reserve" is the FB page that is uncensored, and allows ALL residents to join (yes, those renting a home here as well). I'm confident in stating that at least 90% of the community is very happy with what this Board has done over the past 5 years. Thank you to those who have supported this Board with your emails.

As promised, an email addressing EVERY concern regarding the DCCR's will be sent out shortly. This was the plan I rolled out a month or so ago, and I will stick to that plan. More comments will be accepted and NOTHING will be passed until YOU, the RESIDENTS, vote on them in a 2/3 super majority vote. I have every confidence that the final product will be acceptable to all.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL:

I have spoke with Pasco County regarding the traffic signal. Design will begin in May, with construction to begin in Fall/Winter. We look forward to this addition, making it safer for all to exit the community.

FLAGPOLE AT COLLIER PARKWAY ENTRANCE:

Jim had stated in a past meeting that once the traffic signal is installed he would have a better idea as to where the flagpole will be placed. Currently it is on hold.

SERVICE REQUESTS:

Eileen Shires is responsible for taking your service requests. Please email her at: eshires@mgmt-assoc.com.

If it's Board/community related, please use the Board email address "thereserve2020@gmail.com" to communicate with us. As I'd like the entire Board to be aware of resident concerns I ask that you use this email address.

If you are new to the Reserve (owner or renter), please contact a Board member via email at "thereserve2020@gmail.com". Don't forget to join the Facebook page.

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The History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a US federal holiday which is celebrated every year on the final Monday of May. Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Formerly known as Decoration Day, it originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War. By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who have died while in the military service. It typically marks the start of the summer vacation season, while Labor Day marks its end.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

Memorial Day is not to be confused with Veterans Day; Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving, while Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans.

The gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery are decorated by U.S. flags on Memorial Day weekend.



The Love Bug

Biology and Behavior

Love bug larvae grow up in grassy areas and feed on dead vegetation. The adult love bug does not eat, but subsists solely on the food taken in during its larval stage. Upon reaching maturity the love bug spends the entirety of its life copulating with its mate, hence its numerous romantic nick names. The male and female attach themselves at the rear of the abdomen and remain that way at all times, even in flight. In fact, after mating, the male dies and is dragged around by the female until she lays her eggs. Females lay up to 350 eggs in debris, and about 20 days later the eggs hatch into larvae. The larvae may live for months before passing into adulthood.

Commercial use of cut sod for "instant" green lawns transports great numbers of the larvae of this insect, once found only in agricultural areas, to all of the newly built developments sprouting up in the towns of the regions where its numbers are increasing so rapidly as a new phenomenon.

Love bug swarms can number in the hundreds of thousand and blanket an entire small town in a dense cloud of insects. The thick swarming of these slow flying, almost drifting, insects almost is reminiscent of snow fall. The swarms occur twice each year, first in late spring, then

again in late summer. The spring swarm occurs during late April and May. The summer swarm occurs during late August and September. Swarms extend over periods of 4 to 5 weeks. Mating takes place almost immediately after emergence of the females. Adult females live only 2-3 days.

Its character as a public nuisance is due not to its bite or sting (as it is not capable of either), but to its apparently highly acidic body chemistry. Because airborne love bugs exist in enormous numbers near highways, they die en masse on automobile windshields, hoods, and radiator grills when the vehicles travel faster than fifty miles an hour. If left for more than an hour or two, the remains become dried and extremely difficult to remove, and their acidity pits and etches automotive paint and chrome.

Trivia

There is a theory that love bugs give a clue as to whether there is going to be an active hurricane season. Florida, in 2004 saw a lot of love bugs prior to an active hurricane season. In 2005 and 2006, there were fewer love bugs and the state had relatively quiet hurricane years. This year (2016), in May, there are loads of love bugs and it is predicted that the Atlantic is to have a very active storm season from June to November.

Popular tongue-in-cheek lore holds that love bugs are synthetic, the result of a University of Florida genetics experiment

gone wrong. Unscientific speculation about the love bug abounds: As the creature seemed to have no natural enemies its population was perceived to be reaching enormous levels. This is incorrect; love bugs are not a favored food of most insectivores, but they are harmless and merely do not taste good, and thus, do not get eaten. While many predators, including red fire ants, don't eat them, love bugs' larvae -- and some adults -- are food for birds such as quail and robins, and also, spiders. Some think that the apparent population explosion may for the largest part be explained by the fact that with increasing automobile use and rising population, the nuisance that love bugs may be has come to more widespread notice since at the time of Hardy's study, the density of the road network and the extent of personal transport ownership in the species' area of occurrence was much lower than it is today. Lovebugs are beneficial because their larvae helps recycle organic material and improve the soil. The larvae also eat earwigs, beetle larvae, and other pests.



From the Desk of the Reserve HOA President Continued...

"HOA-PLANTATION PALMS THE RESERVE"




Please note that the FB page IS NOT an "Official" page. While I have been sending out lots of Board/HOA information I will post not as HOA President, but as a resident. Changes to Florida law, and advice from our attorney led me to this decision.

A few reminders for the community, and things that should be considered:

- 1) Let's not forget our new residents! Reach out to your new neighbors and say hi! We've had a few new residents join us since our last newsletter. Welcome to all, both owners and renters!
- 2) Please try to utilize the new PORTAL for the submission of work orders. Alternatively, you can request through Eileen Shires at Management & Associates. If you do not have access to the PORTAL, please contact Chelle Walsh, our manager.
- 3) Facebook (including DM) is NOT the proper channel to report issues. Please use the Board email address "thereserve2020@gmail.com" so that the entire Board can be informed and the proper person can respond.
- 4) Suggestions for improving our community? Send us a note. All suggestions will be considered.

"Thanks" to all who attend our Board meetings. This is YOUR community and you should show interest. Some say it's a thankless job, but hearing your comments is all the thanks I need!

As a parting thought, please consider taking an active role in the community by joining a committee and become part of a winning team! We have many talented people in our community, so why not show us what you can do? It's YOUR community...help make a difference. We do appreciate those who have volunteered their time to help, and I'm happy to see more people raising their hands. I again would like to thank those currently participating. Ask me how you too can assist your community.

	<h3>Walking Safety Tips</h3>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Obey all traffic laws. As a road user you should always obey the pedestrian traffic laws to be safe on the road.■ Use sidewalks or walk against the direction of traffic. If no sidewalks are present, walk against the direction of traffic so you can see oncoming vehicles.■ Always use the crosswalk. The marked crosswalk at signalized intersections is the safest place to cross.■ Look then look again. Look left, right, then left again before crossing.■ Be visible. Wear bright colors and reflective accessories such as belts, clothes, wristbands and shoes. <p>www.AlertTodayFlorida.com <small>Funded by FDOT</small></p>	<h3>Health Benefits of Walking</h3>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">♥ Lowers blood pressure. Exercise causes blood vessels to dilate, which reduces the pressure on blood vessel walls.♥ Lowers cholesterol. Exercise lowers your cholesterol level, which decreases the risk to your heart.♥ Strengthens heart and cardiovascular system. The elevated heart rate you get from walking will help lower your heart rate when you rest.♥ Increases production of endorphins, improving mental and physical health. Endorphins are the body's natural way to decrease stress, helping you to relax, and people often find they feel better and sleep more soundly.♥ Weight loss or weight maintenance. Studies have shown that walking regularly can help you lose weight, and keep unwanted pounds from returning. <p>www.FloridaHealth.gov</p>
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Alligator Time Is Near

We are in Alligator "season" as the warm weather returns and they become more active just as we do.

Here are some safety tips. Be aware on, in or near water.

- Never let children or pets near the water unsupervised. Never approach an alligator on the bank of a lake or a pond!
- Never throw any kind of object at or near an alligator or disturb them!
- Never feed and alligator

Why? Alligators are opportunistic hunters. They prefer to wait for prey to get close, and lunge to seize it. Adults and children alike should be very aware of their surroundings near the water's edge; that embankment area of a water body, where land meets liquid, is often covered in vegetation in which the 'gator can hide, making it the reptile's favorite lurking place. Remember: the smaller the potential 'prey,' such as child or a pet, the more attractive to the alligator simply because it is easier to take. Be extra-aware during the warmer seasons.

Your chance of encountering an alligator is greatest during the animal's courtship and mating season in the warmest months, from March through September. This is when male 'gators become most dominant and aggressive as they try to intimidate rival males and attract females by their show of power. Some males end up having to travel to find a mate. July through September are when mother 'gators are guarding nests.

Enjoy the waters edge from a safe distance!

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