

# ACORN NEWS

Oak Park Village Cooperative, Inc  
May, 2015



## *Board of Directors*

*Message from the President*

*Bill Bauer, President*

As we enter the spring and summer season, it's great to see so many people reinvigorated and invested in our community and willing to serve on committees! The months of March and April were quite busy, with committees having their organizational meetings, planning their activities, and already getting to work on their goals. Some of the many accomplishments made possible by our community and board cooperative efforts were the repair of our seawall, furniture upgrades in the clubhouse and in the pool area, beautiful planting in Browne Park, streamlining and improving new owner packets, finalizing plans to complete the paving of the remaining roads and correct the paving problems on Jute and Kelp streets, paying down \$75,000 on our mortgage principle, meetings with the County Commissioner and the Lee County Natural Resources Department to begin the investigation of the possibility of a "slow zone" or "no wake" zone along our riverfront, giving a 5% wage increase to our staff, and, most importantly, the building of a positive outlook for Oak Park's future! Along with our current board, YOU helped achieve these results! We are strengthening our sense of commitment to community!

As with any organization, we've also had a couple of bumps in the road. After a long, thorough, and expensive review, on the advice of our attorney, the board voted to dismiss the suggested amendments to the Oak Park Rules and Regulations and ByLaws. That means that the existing Rules and Regulations and ByLaws remain in effect, and those mailed to shareholders in February of 2015 will be disregarded. The new Legislative Committee will engage in a thorough review of all OP governing documents, a process that is expected to take some time. The committee will begin its work using teleconferencing during the spring and summer, resuming face-to-face meetings in the fall.

We had a decidedly unpleasant experience when we were faced with a Notice of Code Violation from Lee County. While we had a signed letter from the Army Corps of Engineers that we did not need a permit to complete the repairs to our seawall, it appears that a disgruntled shareholder who did not agree with that decision chose to file a complaint with Lee County, apparently with the intent to harm Oak Park, have us pay fines, and embarrass the Board of Directors. Fortunately, we were able to obtain the needed permit and close the case within three working days with no fines imposed and a "clean bill of health" from Lee County for a cost of about \$150. This compares to the \$450 our last permit cost when we used a firm to obtain it.

The regrettable part of this is that a shareholder with a decidedly negative agenda would turn us in to Lee County simply to cause problems for our community because they couldn't stand to see people working together, volunteering, and doing something good for the community that this sad little person couldn't control. A group of these malcontents even handed out copies of the Code Violation before the BOD meeting, claiming that it was available on the web. It was, but apparently they forgot that the only way the specifics of the violation could have gotten on the web is from the complaint. And the specific details of the complaint could only have been obtained by getting the bills from the Oak Park office. And only shareholders can request to see those bills. Anyone with questions can ask to see the file on the seawall. Of course the complaint was anonymous: the complainer did not have the honesty or courage of his or her convictions to sign the complaint or admit to having filed it!

The silver lining in this cloud of morally reprehensible behavior is that it offered the opportunity for me to meet some of the people in Lee County permitting and code departments and I've been most impressed with their willingness to help us navigate the system. They were great!

Several requests for exemptions to the age and oversized pet rules were received during the last few months, and the Board has denied each of them. The ongoing effort to more consistently enforce the OP Rules and Regs and ByLaws continues to guide the actions of the BOD. Most residents who were eligible to have their pets grandfathered have registered them.

This spring and summer we'll continue our "busy streak" as we complete the paving of the remaining streets, deal with the issue of the inadequate and non-functioning security system cameras, complete the insurance review and renew the policies we need to assure appropriate coverage for Oak Park, work on revising a number of documents, continue to develop policies and procedures to simplify and clarify some of our rules and regulations, improve the maintenance area by providing a shower area and new toilet facilities for our staff, complete an extensive review of our reserve funds, follow the progress of the seven acres, begin the full review of all of the governing documents of Oak Park, install a Carolina Carport to protect the Oak Park bus, and other activities that may require our attention. This year, the RAC checkbook was not removed from the park, so it should be easier for the summer organizers to put together and pay for activities. And, of course, there's the ever-present and constant mowing and other maintenance needs that our staff so competently handle during the rainy summer season!

On the "office side" of things, we've purchased a small, inexpensive refrigerator for the office, are in the process of finally obtaining a fire-resistant file cabinet for our important records, and two of our Directors (Fornell and Larson) have done a remarkable job of reviewing old records and cleaning out the major mess in the record storage area of the conference room.

While many of our friends and neighbors are away for the summer, we do have a perfectly capable maintenance and office staff and one year-round board member on site. The remainder of the BOD and I are easily available by phone, email, Skype, FaceTime, or mail, and remember, this park has done just fine for many, many years by relying on our great staff to do their jobs. As a matter of fact, the entire clubhouse renovation took place during a summer with only one board member (thanks, Irene!) on site!

That about wraps up the 2014/15 high season! It's been a lot of work for those of you involved in activities and for the board members who have worked with and beside you between meetings to make Oak Park the place to be! We look forward to talking with you on "Park Chat!" Watch the OP News for details!

## THANKS

The Landscape Committee thanks all of you that continue to donate their time and dollars to Oak Parks Landscaping Projects. Efforts by the volunteers and by those who have donated funds will help us to continue to add beauty and value to our community. The Fountain is completed and we have a good start on Browne Park. The plan is to finish Browne Park next fall and to have a comprehensive plan in place for the Entrance. It is a positive thing for all of us!!!

Thank you again for your support!!!

The Landscape Committee  
Joe Geffre (Chairman)  
Bill Cobey  
Don Fornell  
Carol Harris  
Jan Liscum  
Al Vine

Thanks a Whole Bunch





# THE PEOPLE OF OAK PARK

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
1 Jerry Winters Richard Strobel Mike Turner	1 John Chandley Annette Upchurch	2 Kris Skaro	2 Linda Root	1 Dottie Tygert
4 Wally Brewer Mona DeWalt	6 Ed Wolos	5 Mike Studer Vickie Farmer	4 Kathy Bauer Lois Garcia	2 Tim Herold Deb Plain
5 Jerry Everly	7 Paul Bennett	6 Dawn Cherney	5 Rick Vauter	3 Charlie Adkins
7 Ron Kreuser Constance London Dottie Miller	9 Ivan Bastien	7 Nancy Nelson	6 Faye Pyle	4 Steve Fair
11 Evelyn Johnson Dan Tenniswood	10 Bud Holden	8 Kathy Fornell Sharon Opdyke	8 Shawn Williamson	7 Stiles Gaffney Cora Hamel Carol Harris
12 Tim Opdyke Dennis Winner Marilyn Householder	13 Carol Johnson	9 Carl Miller Earl Householder	10 Dick Braatz Tom Ford Bernice Strobel	9 Dawn Gibbs Susie Turner
13 JoAnn Provencal	15 Ruth King	10 John Hoelting	12 Lynda Downie George Dannecker	10 Jerry Zellmer
16 Bonnie Stoddard Dar White	17 Shirley Winner	11 Jean Gaffney Brenda Geffre	13 Bob Miller Sue Nalley	11 Jessie Brenzil
17 David Kenyon Doug Vine	18 Darwin Trumble	13 Vickie Vauter	14 Kelly O'Grady Deborah Kunik	12 Sue Crawford Pat Cristina
18 Laurie Stevens Mark Evans	20 Mary Alice Buckley Bob Nixon	16 Nick Weaver Harold Cameron Judy Zellmer	15 Dorothy Van Norman	13 Marge Ottgen
19 Dick Gilbert Sue Hahn	22 Emmy Spackey	17 Jr Crawford Ed Ziomek	16 Louie Caton	17 Helen Bennett
21 Sherry Herold	24 Donna Suter Philip Schwartz	18 Norma Lane	18 Trisha Pouliot Tina Baldino	18 Pauline Whittaker
23 Helen Smith	25 Doris Lockhoff Jack McPhail	19 Dolores Cummings	24 Don Fornell	19 Char Hummel
24 Nina Rigby	26 BJ Clark Lorraine Graves	21 John Provencal	25 Jeannine Mauthe	20 Connie Krebs
25 Norm Flaxman	27 Shirley Kimmel	23 Bill Cobey	26 Jim Snyder	23 Barb McPhail
26 Shirley Kyle Harry Purvis	29 Jerry Blakely	25 JoAnn Miller	27 Marlene Moss	24 Kathy Young
27 Pauline Bailey Ray Suter		27 Gloria Bissonnette	28 Carol Baugh Pearl Mears	26 Ken Ginter Marilyn Murphey
29 Ray Gauthier		28 Larry Overbay	29 Mike Doran Shirley Tomczak	28 Marcia Wallace
30 Clarence Jackson		29 Jim Bailey		30 Don Porrett
31 Hank Gunnink Bob Langer Bob Solarchick Twig Suter		30 Gary Larson		
		31 Sue Gilmore Ken DeWalt		

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
3 Carol & Gene Harris	1 Dorothy & Carl Licini	11 Nancy & Bob Benham	5 Sue & Jr Crawford	1 Karen & Dick Braatz
13 Mary Ann & Jim Watters	Susie & Mike Turner	12 Mona & Ken DeWalt	6 Lorraine & Bruce Graves	2 Sue & Doug Vine
16 Jan & Nick Weaver	5 Carol & Dan Perone	13 Ruth & Jerry Blakely	Joni & John Hoelting	13 Sue & Wayne Hahn
23 Kathy & Bill Bauer	9 Isabelle & Harold Cameron	17 Marcia & Cal Parent	10 Dottie & Carl Miller	22 Darlene & Tom Burton
26 Suzy & Bud Holden	13 Cora & Lee Hamel	18 Jeannine & Jim Mauthe	13 Bonnie & Dave Kenyon	26 Vickie & Rick Vauter
31 Linda & Tom Splitt	14 Beth & Tom Ford	19 Nancy & Jim Nelson	14 Kelly & Kevin O'Grady	
	16 Janet & Howard Powell	Nancy & Dale Spenser	17 Sherry & Tim Herold	
	17 Irene & Ed Orr	22 Annette & Pete Upchurch	19 JoAnn & John Provencal	
	22 Ali & Charlie Adkins	23 Marion & Ed Ziomek	Beth & Steve Fair	
	24 Liz & Woody Ingram	24 Gail & Tom Princinsky	20 Marilyn & Earl Householder	
	26 Judy & Gene Courtney	26 Klara & Clarence Jackson	25 Barb & Jack McPhail	
		27 Vickie & Ed Farmer	28 Donna & Ray Suter	
			31 Marlene & Bob Solarchick	
			Glinda & Michael Brust	



## NEW RESIDENTS

Alan & Claudette (CJ) Mathis  
29 Aloe



## SCRABBLE GAME

Every Monday,  
2pm in the Annex



## BEAN BAG WINNERS: Bill Cook & Don Fornell





# RAC

*Liz Ingram, President*

So Long Snowbirds! Hello Summer Season! Those of us who head north as the days heat up may tend to think that time stands still in our lovely Oak Park Community while we are gone; that the park wraps itself in a cocoon to patiently await our return. Not so!

Yes, it is a quieter atmosphere than during high season, but many see it as a plus. Now the full-timers have the pool to themselves. There's always room to park at the mailboxes, and no more traffic jams at the office!

Lots of activity takes place over the summer. Folks continue to gather in the clubhouse for coffee on Saturday morning and catch up on the local news. Monthly potlucks bring the community together to share food and friendship. (And a big THANK YOU to Mel and Emmy and Norma and Richard for volunteering to host 4 of them this summer!) Marcia continues to arrange Purple and Red Ladies outings, and Mildred and Vicky have planned a variety of RAC events to keep things interesting! These are posted in the clubhouse along with a tentative 2015-2016 RAC Activity Schedule.

Looking ahead:

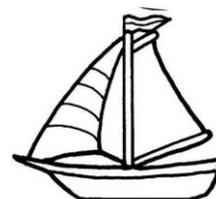
- ✓ We will have a series of 6 speakers on Health and Wellness topics beginning in November.
- ✓ Ladies, bring out your Holiday china and favorite centerpieces to decorate your tables for the Christmas Potluck.
- ✓ Oh yes....and think up a good costume to wear for the Halloween Dance, and come early to hand out candy to the trick-or-treaters.
- ✓ If you have a game, activity or craft you would like to start in the park, please contact me.

Enjoy your summer. Be safe and stay well. See you in the Fall!

## YACHT CLUB

The season might be over, so it's time to look forward to the next one! Here are the proposed schedule of Yacht Club events for the 2015/2016 season:

October 7 <sup>th</sup> :	Yacht Club Meeting
November 4 <sup>th</sup> :	Yacht Club meeting, followed by luncheon by boat, location TBD
November 11 <sup>th</sup> :	Welcome Back Breakfast
January 20 <sup>th</sup> :	Dogs & Brats (with RAC cart poker run)
February 17 <sup>th</sup> :	Steak Fry
March 9 <sup>th</sup> :	Picnic on the Water
March 16 <sup>th</sup> :	Poker Run
April 13 <sup>th</sup> :	So Long Breakfast
April 20 <sup>th</sup> :	Yacht Club Luncheon by boat, location TBD



## RAC SUMMER EVENTS !!

MAY

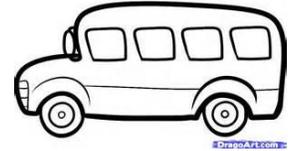
4pm May 30<sup>th</sup>:  
Memorial Day Pool  
Party

RAC will supply hot dogs, buns,  
Condiments, soda, paper goods.  
Brings a dish to share and BYOB



JUNE

10:45am June 17<sup>th</sup>:



Bus trip to Broadway Palms to see  
Church Basement Ladies. We will be  
returning around 4pm.

JULY

4pm July 4<sup>th</sup>

Bus trip to Fisherman's Village in  
Punta Gorda for dinner on your  
own, shopping & fireworks. We will  
be returning around 10:30pm.



AUGUST

5pm August 6<sup>th</sup>

Pizza Party in  
the Clubhouse.



## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

*Darlene Burton, Residents' Relations Committee*



Our volunteer of the month is Bill Cook. Bill is a great asset to Oak Park. His latest volunteer project has been the seawall erosion project. He and his crew did a fantastic job on the seawall. He spent a good portion of time in the river (Uck!!!) positioning heavy rocks so that they would not go in the river. His hard work ethic has paid off for the betterment of Oak Park. Bill and the other Volunteers have saved the residents thousands of dollars.

Thank you, Bill, for your continued support & volunteerism. This is what Oak Park is all about! So, residents, volunteer when you can!!

THE ENTIRE TEAM:



## EASTER ON THE RIVER:



## EASTER GOLF TOURNAMENT:

The Winners:  
Vickie Farmer & Don Fornell



The Trophy Winners:  
(AKA – Last Place)  
Tom Burton & Char Hummel



SEE YOU IN THE FALL  
HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

## YACHT CLUB LUNCHEON BY BOAT:



## CONGRATULATIONS

Father Dave Baugh's rock garden was recently highlighted in the News-Press. The garden can be found behind the house at 7 Aloe:

### Rock garden in Alva kept on growing and growing

David G. Baugh of Oak Park Village in Alva sent in a picture of his rock garden. He wrote, "I started with two large rocks already in place and just kept going."



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS