

Van Dyke Farms

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR VAN DYKE FARMS RESIDENTS

SPRING OUTING – SUNDAY MARCH 24

Spring is upon us! Please come celebrate with your neighbors and friends as the Van Dyke Farms Homeowners Association holds its Annual Spring Outing from 12:30 until 2:30 the afternoon of Sunday, March 24, at the Association's Park. We're looking forward to a family-friendly afternoon highlighted by "the hunt" for over 2,000 pre-filled eggs provided by the Association. The hunt is open to all children ten (10) and under of Van Dyke Farms HOA Members and their Guests, **and will begin promptly at 1:00 PM.** Please make sure to bring a basket for all your egg hunting bunnies!

The Association has also arranged extra activities including a DJ, face painter, hula hoop and limbo contests, and at least one treat vendor. Last year more than 200 members and guests attended and had a great time. We're looking forward to an exciting afternoon and hope to see everyone there! Special thanks to Jessica Dashner (Meadows) and Dave Moore (Lakes) for making all the arrangements.

"the hunt" for over 2,000 pre-filled eggs provided by the Association.



MULCHING SATURDAY MARCH 23



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Would you be willing to help a neighbor in need? Have you found yourself occasionally in need of a bit of help? Maybe you were ill or just had surgery or your spouse is out of town and can't leave the kids. A few residents are wondering if we could organize to help one another. This could include a ride to a doctor's appointment, pick up a prescription, groceries, return library books, or to visit a family member in the hospital. Help could also include someone to drop off or pick up a vehicle being repaired or simply bringing mail to your door if you are unable to do so. If you think this is a good idea and/or if you're willing to volunteer, please let us know by sending an e-mail to: VDFNeighbors@gmail.com.



VOLUNTEER MULCHING- MULCHING SATURDAY MARCH 23

The Association will be hosting a Volunteer Day, Saturday, March 23, to lay 1,500 bags of pine bark mulch throughout the Association's common areas. Having volunteers lay the mulch, which take about two hours provided we have enough volunteers, saves the Association about \$3.00 per bag, or nearly \$4,500 per mulching event!!! The Association is seeking about 50 volunteers to assist in this event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dave Moore at vdf.dave.moore@gmail.com. The volunteers will meet at the Association's Playground parking lot at 8:00 AM the morning of Saturday, March 23. Participating in this annual event is a great way to meet your neighbors and better your community!



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hello Spring



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NEW HIKING

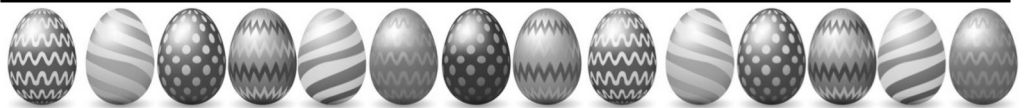
Thanks to the volunteer efforts of member Ray Guistina (Lakes), and others, Van Dyke Farms has a new hiking and nature trail. It starts and ends at the TECO light pole in the Linear Park (fitness trail area). The loop is half a mile in length and takes about 10 minutes to walk. It's a chance to get close to some very old cypress trees and some very exotic scenery. Dogs also love it. The trail is a work in progress and you need to exercise caution in parts of the path as there are many cypress "knees" that you must step over or around. You probably will stub your toe at least once, so wear shoes, not sandals. Get out and enjoy it before the summer rainy season.

Ray will be hosting guided walks at 8:00 and 8:30 am, every Saturday morning in late-March and April. Come join him at the TECO light pole. If that isn't convenient, you can schedule another time for a guided walk, by contacting him at guistina@gmail.com.



FENCE REPAIR

To address the degraded fencing around the youth and tennis courts the Association hired Roth Fencing. The repairs were completed in February for a cost of \$6,646. Of this amount, \$1,431 was reimbursed by an insurance company for the repairs needed related to tennis fencing damage on Court 1 as the result of a vehicle accident. The repairs look great.

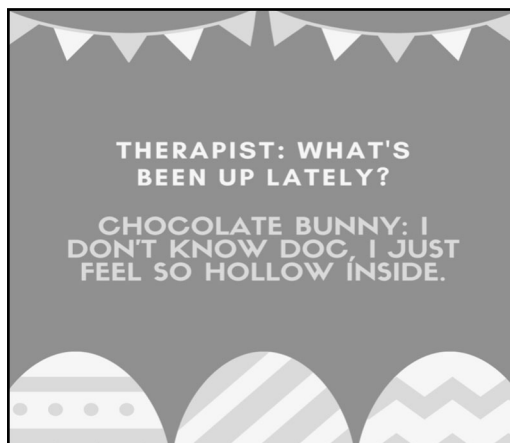


CLUBHOUSE MEETING ROOM REPAIRS

The original vinyl flooring in the Clubhouse Meeting Room was in need of replacement and the Association hired Hanover Flooring to replace the existing flooring with a Porcelain Wood Tile. The repairs were done in February for a cost of \$3,666.

Further, the original walls and ceiling in the Clubhouse Meeting Room were in need of repair and painting. The Association hired Lou Phillips Painting, the contractor who painted the exterior of the Clubhouse three years ago, to complete the drywall and painting for \$1,650.

These repairs were also completed in February.





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Millie Dashner (11) resident of VDF, student of Martinez middle school and big sister.
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References available upon request.





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ENTERANCE LANDSCAPING

In March, Board Members Jeff Theil (Southfork) and Chris Velar (Trails) worked with Natural Designs to complete another major landscape makeover at the Van Dyke Road entrance in front of the Guardhouse. The makeover eliminated aged out ligustrum and other plants and replaced them with an assortment of shrubs. Several pallets of St. Augustine were also required to replace damaged sod at the entrance. The new landscaping was enhanced with additional lighting. The total improvement cost was approximately \$10,000.



2024 ANNUAL SIDEWALK PRESSURE WASHING

Tampa Power Washing completed the annual sidewalk and monument pressure washing for \$7,398, the same cost as in 2023. The pressure washing was completed in February and included the common area sidewalks and monuments. Additionally, the Playground and Fitness Stations were cleaned. One key aspect of the pressure washing is the cleaning of the gutters next to all the common areas, including the entire length of Van Dyke Farms Boulevard. As a reminder, **please consider cleaning the gutters in front of your home when you clean the sidewalks. Many members do and it looks great!**



SPRING TOP CHOICE ANT CONTROL APPLICATION

For the past several years the Association has treated the Park, Playground, Athletic Fields and Courts for ant infestation. The product Top Choice has been used very effectively. Natural Design applied this spring's application in mid-March for a cost of \$2,876, the same cost as last year. This allows members and their guests to fully enjoy the Athletic Fields. This includes the Spring Outing, football and baseball practices, regular Sunday morning volleyball, etc...



2024 PLAYGROUND MULCHING

The Association last mulched the Playground last spring. At the time about 30 cubic yards of playground specific mulch chips were added for a cost of about \$2,000, and was applied by member volunteers. In mid-March this year, a similar amount was applied for approximately the same cost. Funding was provided by the \$22,500 General Maintenance line item in the Association's 2024 approved budget.



FLORIDA'S NEW GOLF CART LAW

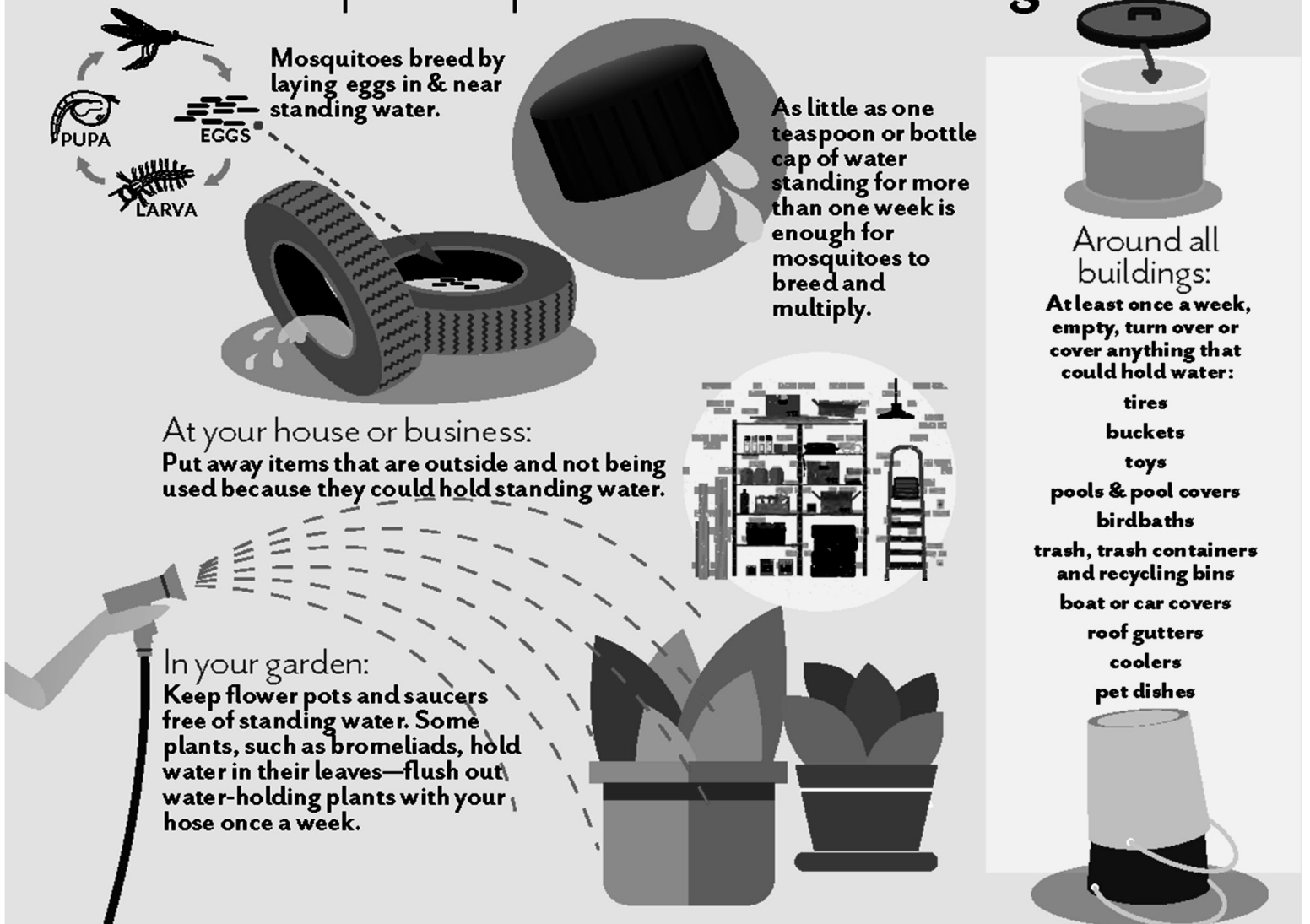
Don't forget, Florida's new golf cart law is now in effect. It increases the legal age to drive a golf cart on public roads. Anyone under the age of 18 is now required to have a driver's permit or license to drive a golf cart on public roads. Under the previous law, you had to be at least 14 years old to drive a golf cart on public roads.

As all Van Dyke Farm roads are public please be aware of and ensure the law is followed.

Keep mosquitoes **outside**



Stop mosquitoes from **breeding**



www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes



LIVE AT THE CENTER

■ THINGS TO DO

(813) 922-8167 • CarrollwoodCenter.org



"THEMES FROM THE MOVIES"

April 5 • 7:30 pm

Presented by The Jazz Directions



CARROLLWOOD BLUES & BBQ

April 6 • 11 am – 6 pm

Presented by the Carrollwood Village HOAs



ART OPENING & RECEPTION

April 12 • 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Above by Dionne Seevers



CARROLLWOOD MARKET

April 13 • 10 am – 2 pm

Presented by Tampa Bay Markets



STRINGS IN THE SPRING

April 13 • 7 pm

Vivek Jayaraman (violin) & Franz Mantini (piano)



CARROLLWOOD JUKEBOX

April 20 • 7:30 pm



#SUMMER2024

15% EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT
(ENDS APRIL 30.)

CAMPS & INTENSIVES FOR
AGES 4-16.

IN THE GALLERY



Black Art Matters
presented by
The Gallery

with additional
exhibitions by
Gina White
Tampa Day School
Dionne Seevers
Brent Lacy
&
Edel Alvarez Galban

DISCOVER MORE



CARROLLWOOD
CULTURAL CENTER

PLAN YOUR ACC APPROVAL

As a reminder, major additions, improvements and renovations are required to be approved by the Association's Architectural Control Committee (ACC), a seven (7) person committee of Association members appointed by, but independent of, the Board. These owners meet monthly (typically the first Monday of the month) to review owner's requests per Article VI of the Association's Master Declaration of Conditions, Covenants and Restrictions (Declaration). Every

owner should be familiar with the Declaration and the supporting Guidelines and Standards. These documents clearly define the Association's deed restrictions, what needs to be approved by the ACC, and the process by which to gain approval. These documents can be reviewed by visiting the Governing Document page on <http://www.vandykefarms.com> or on the Association's G360 web portal in the My Association/Association Documents/Governing Documents folder.



IT IS CRITICAL THAT OWNER'S GAIN ACC APPROVAL FOR ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS AND RENOVATIONS PRIOR TO MAKING IMPROVEMENTS. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN THE REMOVAL OF THE ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS AND RENOVATION, AND RESTORATION OF PREVIOUS CONDITIONS. Further, please keep in mind that the Association members who comprise the ACC are your neighbors and are simply trying to ensure the owner's request are compliant with the Association governing documents. The purpose of the Declaration is to maintain the aesthetics and property values in Van Dyke Farms. Finally, as the ACC meets monthly,

PLEASE ENSURE REQUESTS ARE SUBMITTED WELL AHEAD (AT LEAST THREE BUSINESS DAYS) OF MEETINGS TO ENSURE ADEQUATE TIME FOR REVIEW.



CLUBHOUSE RESTROOM KEY

Any member is entitled to have a key to the Clubhouse Restrooms that service the Clubhouse, Playground, Courts and Athletic Fields and remainder of the Association.

Please visit the Clubhouse Restroom Key Page on <http://www.vandykefarms.com>.

There is a \$25 deposit fee. The locks were just replaced but the key members already have should work in the new locks.

LET'S KEEP OUR STREETS OPEN

One of the most annoying encounters in Van Dyke Farms is to see vehicles chronically parked in the street when there is ample space for the vehicle to be parked in the garage or driveway.

Please be respectful of your neighbors.

Parking in the street limits views and creates hazards.

Parking on your lot and not on the public street is greatly appreciated.

Synonyms for Annoying encounter

annoying battle

annoying experience

awkward encounter

disturbing encounter

Happy Easter




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Tips for Perfect Hard-Boiled EGGS

Useful Information:

- Older eggs are easier to peel than fresh eggs. If you are planning to make hard boiled eggs for Easter and want to make sure that the eggs are easy to peel, buy your eggs at least a week ahead of time (two weeks even better, they'll keep).
- If you need easy-to-peel eggs and you have fresh eggs, you might want to try **steaming the eggs** for 20 minutes. Somehow the steam penetrates the shell a bit making the eggs easier to peel.
- If you've boiled a batch of eggs that you are now finding difficult to peel, try cracking the shells all around without peeling them and soaking the eggs in water for a while. The water often seems to seep in enough under the shell to make the egg easier to peel.

1. Place the eggs in a single layer at the bottom of a saucepan. Cover with at least an inch or two of cold water. The more eggs that are crowding the pan the more water you should have over the eggs. Heat the pot on high heat and bring the water to a full rolling boil.

Adding a teaspoon of vinegar to the water may help keep egg whites from running out if an egg does crack while cooking. Also some people find adding 1/2 teaspoon of salt to the water helps prevent cracking as well as making the eggs easier to peel.

2. Turn off the heat, keep the pan on the hot burner, cover, and let sit for 10-12 minutes.

If you have the type of stove burner that doesn't retain any heat when turned off, you might want to lower the temp to low, simmer for a minute, and then turn it off.

Depending on how cooked you like your hard boiled eggs, the eggs should be done perfectly in 10-12 minutes. When you find a time that works for you, given your preferences, the types of eggs you buy, your pots, stove, and cooking environment, stick with it.

If I'm cooking a large batch of eggs, after 10 minutes I'll sacrifice one to check for doneness, by removing it with a spoon, running it under cold water, and cutting it open.

I also find that it is very hard to overcook eggs using this method. I can let the eggs sit, covered, for up to 15-18 minutes without the eggs getting overcooked.

3. Strain out the water from the pan and run cold water over the eggs to cool them quickly and stop them from cooking further. Or, if you are cooking a large batch of eggs, remove them with a slotted spoon to a large bowl of ice water.

The best way to store hard boiled eggs is in a covered container in the refrigerator. Eggs can release odors in the fridge which is why it helps to keep them covered.

They should be eaten within 5 days.

Simplyrecepies.com



Van Dyke Farms

Publication deadlines are the second Friday of every other month. Distribution: 430 copies.

Articles of general interest and letters to the Editor are welcomed for inclusion. All written communication may be edited for length and clarity and cannot be returned. The Editor reserves the right to change policies and advertising rates without prior notice. The views expressed in articles in the newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of IKare Publishing, Inc.

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lcoleman@greenacre.com

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813-936-7158

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