

Board Message

A lot happens in the months of February and March in the way of celebrations. So first let's say Happy Groundhog Day. February 2nd may usually go unnoticed here in Florida but if you are from the north, it means six more weeks of winter or an early Spring. As we were preparing this newsletter this had greater meaning as we seemed to be experiencing a true winter here. Let's hope Punxsutawney Phil does not see his shadow and we can get on with Spring.

Happy Valentines Day! Now this is a day to look forward to when we express love and gratitude to that special person. Oh, and also partake of the other food group – Chocolate.

At the end of February our Muslim community sees the start of Ramadan, a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. On March 5th Christians celebrate Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent.

We cannot forget our Irish friends on March 17th when celebrations turn green. And following this on the 20th we have the first day of Spring when everything turns green.

On March 23rd we have National Puppy Day. That leads us to the subject of cleaning up after your dog. Throughout our community our HOA maintains Dog Waste Stations with bags and trash cans to deposit the bags after we clean up the dog mess. What is disheartening about this is frequently we see piles of dog mess right at these stations. There should be no reason for this as all the resources are right there to take care of the waste. Be courteous of your neighbors and community and please clean up after your dog or puppy. Happy Puppy Day!

We want to welcome Elyse Silver to the Board as a Director. There is some more information in the newsletter on this

THE CHARLESTON CORNERS

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2025

appointment. There are also other interesting and informative articles that you will want to take some time and read.

Remember, stay safe, stay kind and spread some love this Valentines Day.



Clubhouse Rentals

We are pleased to see that the clubhouse is being more frequently rented. It really is a great asset to the community. Here are a couple of things that will make your experience better.

- When you fill out the rental agreement, please give us only the time that your guests will be on site so we can unlock the front and back door as well as the bathroom doors. Access to the clubhouse will automatically be given to the renter through the amenity phone app from 6am to 2am the next day. From the time your guests arrive and are at the party, all the doors will remain unlocked. This includes the bathrooms as well. You will see a circle (O) on the keypad that will let you know it is unlocked.
- Please do not block open the doors or put a shim in the locks.
- The thermostats will detect motion that will turn on the air conditioning. Do not try to adjust them.
- Please do not use glitter or confetti. If this is found on the floors or furniture you will be charged for the cleaning from your deposit. Please thoroughly clean up. This includes the bathrooms.
- And last, please return all furniture, chairs and tables to their original places.

Thank you.

Wetland Setback Area Change

The Natural Resources, Development Services Dept of Hillsborough County has modified their requirements for placing fences in the Wetland Setback Area. The new regulation changes enacted this past summer now permit fences to be installed in Wetland Setback Areas **provided they do not impede the flow of water based on elevation or design the fence.**

Previously when reviewing ARC's for new fences or replacements we have constantly held the line on approving any fences in the Wetland Setback area as it has been a County Regulation prohibiting this. There was a Variance that the homeowner could apply for along with a non-refundable fee of \$2245.82 with no guarantee of approval. This alone pretty well stopped any further action after our denial. There is no longer a permit required by the County.

An ARC is still required to be submitted for review on any fence being installed or replaced on your property. Fences still can not be placed in the Wetlands.

A lot of our homes back up to wetland or conservation areas and our property plats show generally a 30-foot setback area noted as Wetland Setback Area. These changes will make it easier for homeowners to add or maintain fences as well as our reviews and approvals.



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New Board Member



The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Elyse Silver to serve on the Board. She will be completing the term of Thelma Delgado-Josey who was our Treasurer. Elyse was appointed at our January meeting.

Elyse has lived in the community for a number of years. Prior to moving here, she lived in Westchase where she also served on the HOA Board for 3 years. She is an Elementary School Physical Education teacher here in Hillsborough County. Prior to teaching she served in various Personnel Management and Human Resources positions dealing with the public and personnel issues. She also has worked at a resort and understands 5-star the complexity of managing a property organization.

Elyse is looking forward to ways of increasing community participation in activities that would utilize the resources we have in the community. She describes herself as a go getter and one that "thinks outside the box". She looks forward to getting to know everyone and helping to continue to make Charleston Corners the best place to live!



Little Free Library

Books Needed - Readers Needed !

Thanks to several residents who assisted in getting this project completed we now have a Little Free Library box. The box is located at the entrance loop to the clubhouse. The idea came from a suggestion by several residents and the Board purchased the library box.

Bob McElroy, our Beautification Committee chairman installed the post and box. Shawn Tommelleo painted the box and Zen provided equipment to dig the hole. A big Thank You to these residents. Now it is up to you to stock the library and take out what you find interesting to read.

This is free to our residents. Take a book or leave a book. Please keep books G rated as we encourage our young folks and anyone else to use the library.

Enjoy

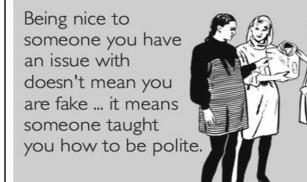




2nd – Groundhog Day 14th – Valentines Day 20th – Board Meeting and continuation of Annual Members Meeting 28th - Ramadan Begins



5th – Ash Wednesday
9th – Daylight Savings Time Begins.
17th – St. Patrick's Day
20th – Board Meeting
20th - First Day of Spring
23rd - National Puppy Day



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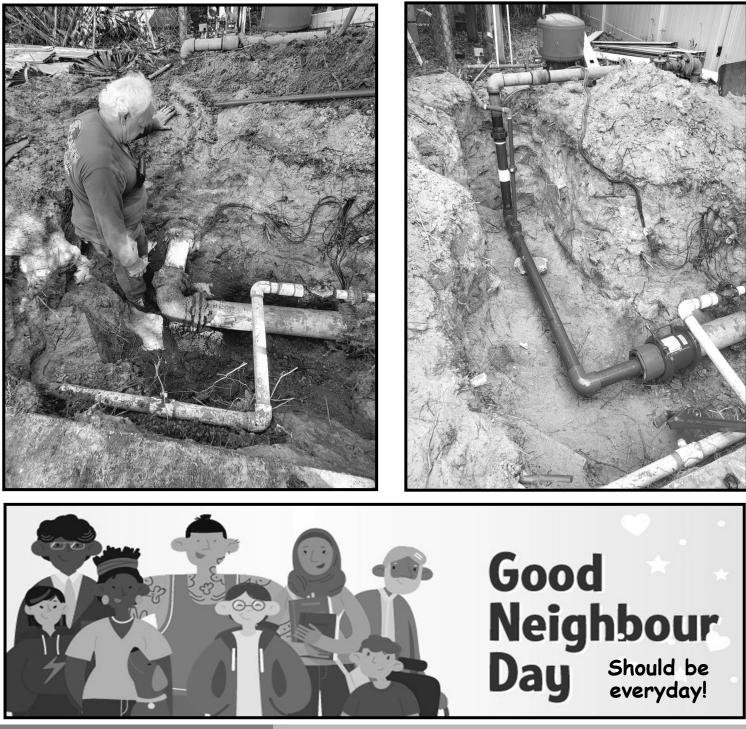
Turn to the experts

Irrigation Leak fixed

In the middle of November our landscaper detected a water leak on W. Waters Ave south of Manassas Rd. At first it was felt that it was a small irrigation line and easily fixed. That was not the case as it turned out to be a crack in the 6" main line from our well pump that feeds all our irrigation lines. Our irrigation water comes from 3 wells that we maintain. The pipe seemed to be broken right under a fence post that had been worked loose from the hurricanes. The post sat right on top of the waterline.

Our irrigation system was installed in the early 1990's and because of its age it is susceptible to frequent breaks as all old systems are. This repair turned out to be a major task from excavation to plumbing. Fittings were all so deteriorated that they had to be cut off and could not be salvaged. The large pipe size was difficult to get, and it required special couplings and reducers that had to be shipped in. Several large cement blocks had to be excavated and later replaced. These blocks prevent the pipes from moving when water surges through the pipe.

Work was completed in early January and our system is up and running. We likely lost some plants along the way from lack of water. The last part of the project is to replace the fence and posts. The pipe repair cost alone was over \$3000.00. This was obviously an unanticipated expense and not budgeted for.





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Boost Your Knowledge! DID YOU KNOW?

- Birds do not urinate.
- Horses and cows sleep while standing.
- The bat is the only mammal capable of flight. Its leg bones are so thin that it cannot walk.
- Even when a snake's eyes are closed, it can still see through its eyelids.
- Despite their fluffy white fur, Polar Bears actually have black skin.
- The average housefly lives only 2 to 3 weeks.
- For every human, there are approximately one million ants.
- A small amount of alcohol on a scorpion will drive it insane and cause it to sting itself to death.
- Alligators and sharks can live for up to 100 years.
- A honeybee has two stomachs: one for honey and one for food.
- Elephants weigh less than the tongue of a blue whale. A blue whale's heart is the size of a car.
- Blue whales are the largest creatures to ever roam the Earth.
- A cockroach can survive for about a week without its head before dying of starvation.
- When a dolphin is sick or injured, its cries of distress prompt other dolphins to assist, helping it surface to breathe.
- A snail can sleep for up to 3 years.
- The fastest bird, the spine-tailed swift, can fly at speeds of up to 106 mph. (The peregrine falcon is even faster at 390 km/h or 108 mph.)
- A cow produces nearly 200,000 glasses of milk in her lifetime.
- The leech has 32 brains.
- The average outdoor cat lives only 3 years, while indoor-only cats can live 16 years or longer.
- Sharks are immune to every disease, including cancer.
- A mosquito's proboscis has 47 sharp edges to help it cut through skin and even protective clothing.
- The human brain has a memory capacity of over 2.5 million petabytes, equivalent to 2,500,500 gigabytes.
- Knowledge is Power!
- What is the biological phenomenon responsible for the gradual loss of muscle mass, strength, and unction as we age? This is known as Sarcopenia!
- Sarcopenia refers to the progressive loss of skeletal muscle mass and strength due to aging. The impact of this condition can be severe, depending on the individual.
- Encourage Movement in the Elderly: When an elderly person is sick or hospitalized, avoid encouraging them to rest or remain in bed. Help them walk, unless they are too weak to do so. Lying in bed for just a week can cause a 5% loss in muscle mass, and seniors often cannot fully recover this loss.