

**What causes the large mass of algae on the lake?**

(This article was originally printed a couple of years ago and it seemed like a good time to re-print.)

Now that spring is here and the rainy season is upon us, we are turning our attention to our yards and doing the inevitable spring-cleaning. When doing our work we should all keep in mind that any chemicals we use will eventually run off our properties and into our lake. Fertilizing, washing cars and draining pools are the most common ways we put chemicals in our lake. These things are not prohibited and I am not trying to restrict their use. However, as some of us are aware, the lake is not just for appearance, it is our water treatment plant. By this I mean, we are required by law to treat all water before it leaves our development and is dumped into the gulf. Our lake is one approved way of doing this. We do pay a company to do what they can to keep our lake in compliance and treat the water if necessary, but not everything can be treated or removed. The green alga that covers a large part of the lake most years, comes from fertilizer run off. The two simple things I can suggest are, first, to make sure all fertilizer is swept off the concrete and on to the lawn, so it can be filtered somewhat by the lawn. And second, draining our pools on the lawn, so that the lawn can again filter some of the chemicals out of the water before it enters the lake.

Thank you and your cooperation is appreciated.

**I Used to be an Insomniac - Now I Just Don't Get Any Sleep.**

I tend to talk a lot. Well, probably too much. One evening last September, after returning home from work, true to form, I was going on and on to my wife Monika about one thing or another about my day. While she was patiently, listening to me babble on and on, my Monika waited for me to pause and spoke only five words, "by the way, I'm pregnant". My wife had finally found an iron clad method of shutting me up.

While the next 9 months were occupied by lots of reading and research, doctor's appointments, sonograms, dietary plans, prenatal vitamins, and anti-stretch mark creams and lotions, the big day came the morning of May 15th.

I would like to introduce Grayson Scott Christie to the Emerald Gardens Community. Grayson was born on May 15th @ 6:31 PM and is a very good boy. He looks forward to meeting everyone in the community, but for now is focusing almost exclusively on breast feeding, diaper changes, and kisses from mom and dad! - With great pride and joy, Gavin Christie



Grayson not happy about getting a bath.

**Emerald Gardens HOA**  
**PO Box 21401**  
**Sarasota FL 34276-4401**

**The Emerald Gardens Jewel**



# Emerald Gardens

www.EmeraldGardens.org

Spring / Summer 2013



# The Jewel



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**SAVE THE DATE - SEMI ANNUAL MEETING**



**The Emerald Gardens Semi-Annual Meeting** is scheduled for

July 25, 2013 at St. John's United Methodist Church. Please plan to attend, or please return your Proxy to us. The doors open at 6:30pm and the meeting will start promptly at 7:00pm.

As always, there will be a raffle at the end of the meeting for valuable prizes!



## From the Desk of the President:

My fellow residents, before the semi-annual meeting I would like to bring to your attention an issue of which the board has been made aware. I am asking for everyone's help in resolving this issue. The problem is the growing number of homeowners who feel it necessary to go to our manager's home to vent their anger over, either a request or violation letter. I know in this day and age of instant answers it is easy to act before we think. I would like to restate a few things that I have said in the past. My hope is that by doing so, those who feel this need in the future will make a different choice.

For more than 8 years, our association has been blessed with a manager who is not only a homeowner, but also lives in our development. Our previous manager for more than 5 1/2 years and our current manager for almost 3 years and counting. I can assure everyone that having such a manager cannot be measured in dollars and cents. This type of manager (On-Site) has saved our association far more than what we have paid them. In fact, I can say we are getting at least a 2 to 1 return on our investment. Having said this, I need everyone to understand that every letter, email or telephone call that our manager initiates is on behalf of the board of directors. Remember, we are doing our best to enforce the rules we all have agreed to live by. Any anger or frustration directed at our manager is misplaced. As everyone should be aware, there are 12 board meetings per year that any homeowner is welcome to attend. Further, the board answers all emails, letters and telephone calls, mainly through our manager. I cannot think of a single issue that cannot be resolved using one of these methods.

Given what I have stated, I would hate our association to lose the benefit of the type of manager we have enjoyed. Please remember he does not live at his place of business. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for allowing me to serve as President of Emerald Gardens Homeowners Association.

Sincerely,

Anthony Martinez

## Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Several weekends were spent in the sun trimming our existing bushes, planting new flowers and spreading mulch. The Board is very happy with the outcome and hope you agree! Having said this, I would like to thank Deb for picking out all the beautiful plants. Deb, Tony and his wife Deborah completed planting.

Next on behalf of the BOD, I would like to thank the following residents for giving up part of a Saturday morning and helping to spread TEN yards of mulch.

Specifically, Bonnie, Chuck, Doug, Gavin, Jesse, Jessica, Larry, Michael, Nelson, Petra, Sandy and Tony. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. We could not have completed this without all of your help!

Anthony Martinez



## FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT – GAVIN CHRISTIE

With July 4th right around the corner, it's pretty safe to say that we will all see and hear our share of fireworks. While I personally prefer going to one of the local, professional fireworks shows, many folks like to do their own thing at home or at a park. Local Sarasota professional fireworks shows include:

The Suncoast Offshore Festival - actually launched from a boat anchored on Sarasota Bay. Viewing is free from anywhere downtown including Bayfront Park and Island Park. The Sarasota show starts at dusk or around 9:00 p.m.

Siesta Key's 23rd Annual 4th of July Fireworks Display - launched just north of the volleyball courts. Viewing is good from anywhere south and along Crescent Beach (south of Siesta Public Beach), out on the Gulf, or from the Intracoastal waterway. Siesta Key fireworks start at about 9:15 p.m.

The Venice area fireworks - fired from the south Venice Jetty in the Venice Beach area and there are a number of good vantage points: anywhere along Venice Beach, Nokomis Beach, or from a boat on the Gulf of Mexico or anchored on the Intracoastal waterway, northeast of the Jetty on the water. Fireworks go up after sunset.

If you do decide to be the conductor of your own fireworks show, please be safe, but also be respectful of the environment and of your neighbors. Unless you are a rocket scientist with a good grasp of exactly where a bottle rocket or other "launched" fireworks will land, refrain from shooting them off. They could land in the lake, on someone's roof or in their yard. No one should be responsible for having to clean up after another person's mess.

While fireworks can be exciting and fun, the thrill of fireworks can also bring pain, and even death. In 2011, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) conducted a study of fireworks injuries from June 17 to July 17. Here's what they learned.

- 200 people on average go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday.
- 65% of these fireworks injuries in 2011 occurred during the month surrounding July 4th.
- Illegal and homemade fireworks were involved in all 4 fireworks-related deaths reported to CPSC in 2011.

## Rules for a SAFE 4th of July

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.

## Injuries by Fireworks Type

- 17%: Sparklers
- 14%: Reloadable Shells
- 13%: Firecrackers
- 7%: Roman Candles
- 6%: Bottle Rockets
- 6%: Novelties
- 2%: Multiple Tubes
- 1%: Fountains
- 3%: Public Display
- 29%: Unspecified

## Injuries included:

- 46%: Hands and fingers
  - 17%: Eyes
  - 17%: Heads, faces, and ears
  - 11%: Legs
  - 5%: Trunk
  - 4%: Arms
- (More than half the injuries were burns.)

## Pet Rules for HOA Harmony

Our association is proud to be pet-friendly, and we are happy your four-legged family members are part of our community. Of course, like any good neighbor, it is important that these pets do not create an unpleasant environment for everyone else. To avoid unnecessary disputes and potential rule violations, here are some guidelines owners should follow to ensure their furry friends continue to be a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

**Read the Rules:** While we welcome pets in our association, we have a few rules and requirements. Please check our website or the association's governing documents for more information.

**Keep it Clean:** No one wants to see, smell or accidentally step in the "gift" your dog left on the grassy common area. So when your dog needs to go, be sure to properly dispose of it, preferably in your waste disposal can. Not only will this keep our community looking better, but it will help keep ground water clean and help prevent the spread of fecal-borne diseases.

**Quiet Down:** Pets will be noisy from time to time. However, when loud barking or meowing becomes annoying to neighbors, it's time to help your pet become less talkative. First, try to find out what causes your pets to get vocal: Do they get noisy when they have been alone and bored all day and need some playtime? Have they gone through a stressful change in environment recently? Are they suffering from health issues? Do they simply like saying "hello" to every squirrel, person or car that passes by? When you have identified the cause, take remedial actions such as confining them to an area where they feel calm while you are away, removing or blocking as many stimuli as possible, exercising them more and spending more time with them. You can also take them to a professional or search online for tips on how to train your pets not to get too noisy.



## — FROM THE MANAGEMENT DESK —

## Do you want notice? I would be willing to give notice...

It was a Wednesday when I received the call. There was a green pickup parked in the neighborhood and the driver was going door to door. When he finally got a homeowner to answer the door, what did he want? Money...as he explained, he lived a few doors up the street and was short \$53.00 to pay his bills. All he needed was a little cash. While I will not get into the details of the encounter, I will pass along the Sheriff's office was contacted.

Throughout the course of the year, various issues are brought to my attention as well as the board of directors. We are often left with the responsibility to pass this information along. But how can that be done in a low cost, expeditious matter? Right now, our method is to mention it at a monthly board meeting and then note it in the minutes. The problem, you will not see those minutes for another month when they are approved for publication. We also have the Spring and Fall Jewel. However, depending on the timing, you could wait even longer for this information to be disseminated to all of you. We could put together a mass mailing, but with the cost of paper, envelopes and postage, we would be spending about \$75.00 per mailing. That is not very cost effective.

So what would we prefer...that 5-letter word E M A I L...we could quickly put together a short email detailing the issue and send it out to the homeowners, making everyone aware of the issue as quickly as possible. So what is the problem? We only have a small number of emails for our residents and we believe those to be out of date.

So my request this month is that everyone who might be interested in this type of communication please provide me with your email address. It is not our intention to sell or provide your address to any outside business. We will maintain your email for our records only.

If you are willing to provide us with your mail address, please do one of the following. Either send us an email to [eghoawebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:eghoawebmaster@gmail.com) OR go to our website at [www.emeraldgradens.org](http://www.emeraldgradens.org) and Click the Contact US link and fill in the blanks.

Thank you in advance.

Kevin Billingsley  
Community Association Manager, CAM37024  
New Email: [SRQCAM37024@gmail.com](mailto:SRQCAM37024@gmail.com)

## Lights Out?



Take a peek at your yard light tonight... it should be lit! As you know, since we do not have streetlights, we rely on our yard lights for safety and guidance. It is also a Deed Restriction rule, so light it up.

## - Welcome to the New Homeowners -

- Floyd & Brenda Rees - 4492 Diamond Cir E.
- THR Florida LP4495 - Diamond Cir E.
- Robert & Deborah Smith - 4423 Diamond Cir W.
- Sale pending at print time... - 4425 Diamond Cir W.
- THR Florida LP - 4439 Diamond Cir W.

We all look forward to being your neighbors!

## Due Process –

Inevitably, from time to time, community rules are broken. When this happens, the association informs residents about the problem and follows what is known as due process procedure.

Simply stated, this means that the association always notifies residents of alleged violations before taking any action. We send written notice describing the possible rule violation and ask the residents to correct the problem voluntarily by a specific date. These notices also explain any action the association may take if the violation is not corrected.

The association understands that things are not always, as they seem. Therefore, any time we send notices to residents, the board wants to hear the resident's point of view. We can arrange for residents to meet with the board before imposing any type of penalty. In fact, imposing penalties is not the goal at all! It is more important that residents comply with the association rules for the good of everyone in the community. These meetings give residents and the board an opportunity to discuss rule violations informally and arrive at a solution. After they have had a chance to talk to a resident about a rule violation, board members will discuss the situation among themselves and make a decision. Residents generally receive the board's decision in writing in about 10 business days.