



## From the Desk of the President:

Happy holidays my fellow residents. The annual meeting is quickly approaching and at that time, we will need to elect three new board members. During my discussions with some of our residents, it has become apparent that some members may misunderstand how our association works. I would like to clarify a few things, but will focus mainly on the duties of the President.

Once the association elects the board members, the newly elected board convenes a special board meeting and they determine who holds what position. Because of this, each member should be prepared to hold any of the five available positions. I would like everyone to understand that as our representatives the board makes almost all decisions. There are a few exceptions. However, all input from our members is considered.

As President, I have more responsibility, but my vote is equal to each of the other members. The following are a few of those duties. As President, I chair all board meetings. I am responsible for following up on all decisions made at the board meetings to make certain everything is getting done. I review all e-mails, legal correspondence and contracts, as does our manager. I communicate with the other board members as necessary by e-mail. The President gives a report at each monthly board meeting. This usually covers items not on the agenda that the board needs to be made aware of. The President also writes two articles per year for the Jewel. I walk the neighborhood at least once per week to see what the neighborhood looks like. During my time as President, I have averaged 6.5 hours per week performing my duties. For further information on the boards duties, please review the Bylaws. I would also like to mention that the manager on behalf of the board performs most of the work. This requires that the President and the manager work closely together. I hope this helps clarify some of what the board does or at least the President.

I hope to see everyone at the annual meeting and would encourage anyone who feels they have the time, to volunteer to serve on the board. The more diverse the board is, the better it is for the community as a whole. 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.

Sincerely,  
Anthony Martinez

## Let's talk about what comes between us... of course I am talking about a FENCE.

The Board has recently received a few complaints about the number of fences in the development that have excessive mold and mildew. As a result, the Board of Director's did a walk through to gage the depth of the complaints.

It was determined, that a number of homeowners have let the mildew take over and these fences are in need of some attention. How many fell into this catagory? Just a few short of twenty.

It was decided to ask nicely through the Jewel, for folks to look at their fences. If you have large mildew spots, or your fence is green or black, it may be time to clean that fence - and what better time of year? I hope that by the time the Jewel is published, the air will be cooler and the humidity will be down. Great time to do some work around the house.

Thank you in advance. We all want this to be a community we are proud to call home!

## Board of Directors

**President**  
Anthony Martinez

**Vice-President**  
Gavin Christie

**Treasurer**  
Doug Miller

**Secretary**  
Chuck Berster

**Member at Large**  
Petra Jata

**Business Manager**  
Kevin Billingsley, CAM #37024

**Webmaster**  
Doug Miller

**Jewel Editor/Designer**  
Gavin Christie

## Happy Halloween!

Halloween is around the corner and the Board of Directors asks all homeowners to please make sure your yard light is lit! As always, we expect many little ones in the neighborhood. Please drive safely and watch out for trick-or-treaters.

## Top Selling Halloween Candy of 2013

1. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
2. Twix
3. Snickers
4. Butterfinger
5. Kit Kat
6. Nestle's Crunch
7. Mr. Goodbar
8. Reese's Pieces
9. Heath Bars
10. Hershey's Bars



FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT – GAVIN CHRISTIE

About a year and a half ago I wrote about my wife and I having our first child, Grayson. While I now sleep a heck of a lot less, have absolutely no free time, and find myself washing what seems like 1000 dishes a day, I wouldn't have it any other way! When we were expecting our baby, most people we know who have children would tell us how wonderful it is and how it will change our lives. Not having had lived through the experience, you think you know how you will feel, but in reality, you really don't. There really are no words that can express how much love you feel for your child. I know this is not a unique feeling to me, but to all parents. What is unique to me is my relationship with and even greater admiration for my wife Monika. I have always loved my wife, but now have a whole new perspective on her as a person. The moment Monika said "yes" to my marriage proposal a bit over seven years ago, I knew I won the equivalent of the human lottery, but really had no idea how lucky I really am. Seeing her as a mother and how she takes care of Grayson is a daily revelation of how amazing she is. If everyone had a mom like Grayson, I am confident that the world would be a better place. This is of course not a disparagement of any mother, just an observation of how wonderful my wife is.



For those of you reading this who are moms, you are amazing and awesome! For those of you who are lucky enough to have your mom in your life, go over to her right now or call her and tell her how much you love her! 😊

Have you been to the site? ([www.emeraldgardens.org](http://www.emeraldgardens.org))



We are in the process of making some changes. You will soon notice a login and password section on the home page. All homeowners are encouraged to create an account, because we will be moving items to a secure area, only permitted to our homeowners.

After you create an account, you will receive an email and you will need to click the verification link. After that is complete, you will then need to be 'activated' by the administrator. That is where I come in. I will check to see you are a member of our community and activate your account. Then you are "good to go".

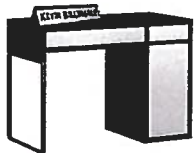
When you log into our home page, you will see an additional menu item on the left side of the screen. "Home Owner Documents". This is where we will now keep the meeting minutes and other private information. As we move forward, look forward to additional information being put on this page. Perhaps we will post the Census in this area. We are always open to suggestions.



**Wayne Peterson**  
Written by Barbara Peterson

Wayne passed away Monday July 28th. His journey for the last four years with pancreatic cancer was long, sometimes easier than other times.

Once he met you, he always remembered your name, where you lived and was truly interested in you. He served our Emerald Gardens well, for 15 years, as a resident, past president and Association Manager. He certainly will be missed and especially on Opal Court.



— FROM THE MANAGEMENT DESK —

As many of you know, there has been a great deal of discussion lately regarding MRTA (a.k.a. Marketable Record Title Act). In simple terms, when a development forms and establishes itself as an Association, it must file paperwork with the county. The Association is then required every thirty (30) years to re-file this paperwork. Should this paperwork not be filed timely, or the Board of Directors vote down the motion, the Association is dissolved.

Recently our attorney advised us that this action of filing is around the corner. After months of discussion, the Board of Directors has decided to move forward, take a vote and have the attorney re-file the paperwork with the county to keep our Association active.

In the upcoming weeks, you will receive a mailing notifying you of this action. I wanted to pass along, that this is a "Special Meeting" of the Board of Directors. While you are welcome to attend, there will be little to no discussion and a vote of the Directors only, as required by Florida Statute with the majority of the Board vote required for passage. The meeting is expected to last about 10 minutes. The law requires us to notice the members, so they are aware of the action. I can pass along, the Board is in support of this action, this is why the discussion will be minimal and we will move to the vote.

On a separate note, please keep in mind we have an upcoming election in January. This year, we have three (3) Board members whose terms are up. While each may be interested in continuing, we always encourage our homeowners to participate and become active in our community.

On a personal note, I recently completed my continuing education and renewed my State Community Association Manager License. I am licensed by the State for two more years. Having said this, I just renewed my 1-year contract with Emerald Gardens. I would like to thank everyone for their support and while I enjoy managing our Association, I hope you are happy with my work.

Kevin Billingsley  
Community Association Manager, CAM37024

### Rock the Proxy: Let Your Voice be Heard

We have an election coming up, and even if you are unable to attend the membership meeting and election, you can still vote by proxy.

A proxy is the written authorization that allows one person to appoint another (the proxy holder) to vote on his or her behalf. State law and the association's governing documents specify that the association can use proxy voting. Why would you use a proxy? Maybe you are traveling during the election or have other obligations that prevent you from attending the meeting, but you still want your voice to be heard.

If you are interested in using a proxy, watch for the mailing, as we get closer to the Annual Meeting. Cite the name of the individual you are appointing to cast your vote. Do not forget to complete the form by signing and dating in the designated area.

The association can only accept one proxy form per household, so be sure to fill out your form accurately. By only accepting one official form, the association does not need to check each proxy to determine if it is legally sufficient. It also eliminates any potential problems if the vote is close.

Just be aware that by assigning your proxy to another person, you have authorized the proxy holder to vote for you as he or she sees fit. The proxy holder is responsible for voting or abstaining from a vote.

Essentially, a proxy is an act of trust—the proxy giver must trust the judgment of the proxy holder. The proxy giver may think the proxy holder will vote for a certain candidate or issue, but the proxy holder is not legally bound by that assumption unless it is written on the proxy form.

### ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 22, 2015

#### All Residents Welcome and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting

The Emerald Gardens Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 22, 2015 at St. John's United Methodist Church. The doors open at 6:30pm and the meeting will start promptly at 7:00pm. There will be much to talk about. As always, you could win one of four gift cards raffled off at the end of the meeting.



#### Welcome to Our Newest Homeowners!

4415 Diamond Circle North -  
Leina O'Hara & Michael A Toone

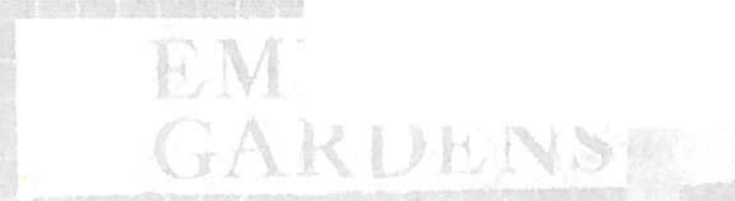
4453 Diamond Circle South -  
Theresa M Domanski

4591 Topaz Court -  
TBD – Scheduled to close soon.

4426 Diamond Circle West -  
TBD - Scheduled to close soon.



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



**The Emerald Gardens Jewel**



**TIME TO CLEAN OUT THE GARAGE...**

**EGHOA ANNUAL COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE IS ON**

The date is set! Everyone is welcome to participate in the Annual Garage Sale. Saturday, November 8th, 2014. Times: 8:00am until 1:00ish. During the morning of the sale, you are permitted to park your vehicle in the grass between the road and the sidewalk. Here is a collection of funny yard sale signs seen over the years...



**The World's Longest Yard Sale**

The 127 Yard Sale is commonly referred to as "The World's Longest Yard Sale". That's because it really is the longest yard sale in the world. To be exact, it's 690 miles long and the route travels through six states; Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. The majority of the route follows Highway 127 from Addison, MI in the north to Chattanooga, TN in the south. From Lookout Mountain, GA to Gadsden, AL the route switches to Lookout Mountain Parkway. Both are scenic drives allowing you to appreciate the beautiful countryside of these states all while enjoying the fun and excitement of The World's Longest Yard Sale.

The Sale always officially starts on the first Thursday in August through the following Sunday. Many sellers in the Clarkrange and Jamestown, TN area start selling the weekend before the official start date.

If you ever are able to make it there you will definitely agree it is aptly titled, "The Worlds Longest Yard Sale!" In past years over 5,000 vendors have stretch along the yard sale route. They've all cleaned out their closets, garages and storage areas. You'll see a plethora of items. Who knows, maybe that combo Elvis lamp/coffee maker/calculator you've always dreamed of is waiting for you there!