

# Emerald Gardens

www.EmeraldGardens.org

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

# The Jewel



## Board of Directors

**President**

Anthony Martinez

**Vice-President**

Gavin Christie

**Treasurer**

Doug Miller

**Secretary**

Chuck Berster

**Member at Large**

Jesse Schilling

**Business Manager**

Kevin Billingsley, CAM #37024

**Webmaster**

Doug Miller

**Jewel Editor/Designer**

Gavin Christie

## From the Desk of the President:

Hello residents. It is time for our semi-annual meeting. I hope everyone will take the time to attend. I would like to relay a continuing complaint many residents have brought to my attention when I have been on my evening walks. Though this is not an issue for the board, I hope that everyone will keep this in mind while traveling through our neighborhood. The issue is some driver's failure to obey the stop signs. I would like to remind everyone that the school year is ending and pedestrian traffic in our neighborhood will be increasing significantly. If everyone will take a little extra time when driving, it would make the neighborhood safer for everyone. Remember there are no yield signs in Emerald Gardens. For those who walk or jog, please pay closer attention when approaching any intersection.

I would also like to make everyone aware that according to the Sarasota Sheriff's Office, the majority of crimes that are reported in our neighborhood occur between August and September. Most of these crimes are car break-ins and appear to be crimes of opportunity. By this they mean the vehicle owner has left some type of valuable in the car where it can be seen. To lessen these incidents, it is recommended that vehicles be parked in the garage. If this is not possible, remove all valuables or make sure they cannot be seen from outside the vehicle. Finally, make sure your vehicle is always locked when left unattended. Most crimes occur surprisingly fast. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as President of Emerald Gardens Homeowner Association.

Sincerely,

Anthony Martinez

## EGHOA DRR (Deed Restriction Reminder)

Page 3, Section 9 reads in part...No person owning or having custody of any animal shall allow it to stray or go upon another lot without the consent of the owner of such lot. Dogs should be walked with a leash in accordance with the Sarasota County Ordinance. Owner will be responsible for proper animal waste disposal.



## 2014 LEGAL UPDATE THAT MAY INTEREST YOU...Census Changes -

Just like many companies, it's time to update your information.

Recently the Florida Statute that governs Home Owner Associations, has changed (Statute 720.303). Specifically, it now "permits an association to print a directory containing the name, parcel address, and phone number of owners unless an owner has requested the association to exclude his or her phone number."

Therefore, if you would like your phone number EXCLUDED, please let me know. I will make the changes to the census report, but will not publish the new format until the Annual meeting in January of 2015.

Please notify me by submitting a "Contact Us" form at [www.EmeraldGardens.org](http://www.EmeraldGardens.org). Please include your information and in the comments area, please put Please exclude my phone number from the census. I will print the page and keep it on file. You can also send me a short note to the PO Box. [email addresses are never included in the census report]



## SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE!

The Emerald Gardens Semi Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 24, 2014 at St. John's United Methodist Church. Please plan to attend, or please return your Proxy to us. The doors open at 6:30 and the meeting will start promptly at 7:00pm.



FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT – GAVIN CHRISTIE

Being on the board of directors of the Emerald Gardens HOA is very rewarding. It truly gives me a great sense of community involvement and the satisfaction that I am volunteering my time to help my community. Overall, I am extremely happy about serving on the board, but from time to time it can be a bit challenging. I am not naive in thinking that everyone will like what I do or my ideas regarding the neighborhood. After all, if you put 127 homeowners in a room you will very likely get 127 different opinions. What is “challenging” is having to explain to a neighbor that he or she needs to paint their fence, fix their light pole or remove their stump. Believe me, there is no pleasure in having to do this. The fact of the matter is that someone has to. That is the whole premise of living in a deed restricted community - the guarantee of a certain level of aesthetics and maintenance of all homes within the subdivision. Isn't that why we all bought homes in this type of community? The board is made up of homeowners who volunteer their time to make sure that we all can be proud of where we live. Whether it be to renovate the deck or to have the palm trees trimmed, decisions need to be made in a timely manor and with fiduciary responsibility for the community. The same is true regarding asking a neighbor to change a burned out light bulb or not to park their car on the grass. If we all collectively decided to let one or two things go, the whole system falls apart. We all, including the board of directors, need to follow the rules. That is how it all works. This way we can all be proud of our community, maintain our property values and the quality of life within our neighborhood, Emerald Gardens. - *Gavin Christie*



Which version of Emerald Gardens do you prefer?



As many of you know, we recently had three volunteers come forward and agree to form a Landscape Committee. Members include Barb Kolb, Bonnie Telingar and Deb Meier. These three volunteers took ownership of the Jade entrance replant project and did a beautiful job. From obtaining multiple bids for the project, to selecting and planting the new plants. They all have many volunteer hours and the result is fantastic!

In addition to the committee, they had some helpers up front and we want to make sure they get their well-deserved thanks as well. Donny, Jon, Abby, Larry, Cad, Carolyn, Will & Gia. Each assisted with the “dirty work”. Many thanks!

We also want to give a “shout out” to both Linekin Landscaping and Plant Magic for their hard work and knowledge transfer. Please check into each of these businesses should you need work done, or you are in the market for new plants. We would be remiss in not mentioning Dean Collins of Collins Construction for adding two extra feet to our agreed upon deck proposal at no additional cost. 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊



— FROM THE MANAGEMENT DESK —

Greetings To All Emerald Gardens Residents...

*Mail Boxes...is yours WHITE or some other color?*

In March the Board of Directors conducted a neighborhood walk-through. During this walk through, they noted a number of green and/or grey mailboxes. According to the Deed Restrictions, you're mail box must be 'white'. I know everyone gets tired of the same old reminders, but this one has been brought to the attention of the Board by several homeowners.

I am attempting to save a few stamps and offer homeowners the opportunity to make a quick fix. So please, if you have a mailbox other than white, please either clean it up, or perhaps it may be time to replace it. Letters will be going out in a few weeks.

Thank you in advance.

One more quick update...

Several times in the past few months, we've sent emails out to the home owners for whom we have an address. Did you receive our email? Would you like to be included? Please go to the web site and send us your email on the contact us page.

Kevin Billingsley  
Community Association Manager, CAM37024  
Email: SRQCAM37024@gmail.com

**Keep Your Home Safe  
While on Vacation**

As the summer heats up, many of you will escape the daily grind and head out on a well-deserved vacation. But before you hit the road, take a few precautions so your home isn't enticing to thieves or susceptible to fire and other disasters. Not only is having your home vandalized or burnt to the ground a highly unpleasant way to return from a trip, but it also puts the rest of the association at risk, as these problems have the potential to spread quickly throughout the neighborhood. So, before you take off, consider implementing these safety tips to keep your home and our community secure.

**Call on friends for help.** If you're going to be away a week or more, ask a trusted friend to check on your house every day or two—or better yet, houses it—while you're gone. Not only will they make sure nothing happens to your home, but you might also ask them to bring in your mail and newspapers, water plants or even feed Fluffy. Of course, it's a good idea to let your neighbors know a friend is monitoring your property so they don't call the police to thwart a perceived "break-in."

**Set your lights on a timer.** Leaving your house unlit for days on end is a sure sign to burglars that it's empty, but so is keeping the lights on 24-7. A good way to handle the lights on/off conundrum is to set them on a timer that's scheduled to simulate your regular routine. Of course, if the lights seem a bit too simulated, that can be another telltale sign, so it's a good idea to set the timers in individual rooms on staggered schedules to make the light coming from your home seem more natural.

**Stop your mail and newspaper.** Nothing screams "nobody's home!" like a pile of newspapers strewn about your doorstep or an overflowing mailbox. So, if you can't get a friend or neighbor to collect them for you, it's best to have your mail and paper stopped if you're going to be out of town for awhile.

**Don't leave the spare house key lying around.** That fake rock where you keep the extra house key isn't as discrete as you think. Whether you keep a spare under your welcome mat, above the door frame or in a hide-a-key contraption, chances are it will take the nefarious types five minutes flat to find it and gain easy entry to your house.

So take it with you, let a friend hold onto it or put it in a safe place inside your house, even if you're worried about losing your other keys. Because when it comes down to it, calling a locksmith is less traumatic than calling the police.

**Make a last-minute checklist.** Are all the windows and doors locked? Stove and oven turned off? How about all the faucets? Are the electronics unplugged and valuables secured? Take five minutes before you leave to ensure your house is vacation-ready. Another run-through of the house may seem unnecessary if you did it earlier in the day, but knowing you've left your house as safe as possible will help you kick back and have a great vacation.



Emerald Gardens HOA  
PO Box 21401  
Sarasota FL 34276-4401

### The Emerald Gardens Jewel



### ALL DECKED OUT!

As everyone entering Emerald Gardens through the main entrance can see, the deck renovation is complete. While the process of getting to this point was filled with debate, discussion, and varying opinions, the new deck is quite the centerpiece for our community. For those of you unaware of the issues with the deck prior to the renovation, there were many. First, when built, no permit was pulled or issued for the project. While it may seem like just a formality, the result was a serious issue of liability for all of us. This forced the board to hire an engineer to stabilize the structure and railings, and then certify its structural integrity. This was at a considerable expense and would be needed to be renewed every year. Additionally, due to the deck's materials, it was decaying. While this could be managed with replacing boards, nuts and bolts, the cost combined

with the engineering and safety certification made it clear that the deck needed a serious upgrade. The results speak for themselves. The deck is beautiful and solid as a rock! It's also two feet deeper. The composite materials used for both the deck and the railings are warranted for 25 years! While there were some homeowners against having the deck renovated and some actually wanted it removed, we can all agree that the newly renovated deck is beautiful and has definitely added value to both our homes and our community for many years to come. If you feel the deck is a bit skewed, it is because the deck is aligned with the the shore of the lake at which it sits, not the road in front of it. Additionally, the updated deck shares the same footprint it had previously, other than the additional two feet over the lake. 😊

