

Emerald Gardens Jewel

www.EmeraldGardens.org

Spring 2018



From the Desk of the President:

Hello Emerald Garden Homeowners. It's hard to believe that we are approaching the summer season. We are already preparing for our Semi Annual Meeting and I encourage as many homeowners as possible to attend the meeting. Make sure to mark the date on your calendar.

While working toward my 10,000 steps each night, I make regular rounds through our neighborhood. I have observed a number of homes doing a lot of work to make their landscape look great. From putting in new sod, adding flowers and toping with new mulch. It is refreshing to see this number of homes looking so good. With that in mind, please read the article this month about the GEM award! The board of directors have also been working hard to freshen up our entrance. We have been working with our landscape vendors to update our Jade entrance, to enhance the appeal, with the lighting previously installed. The Bliss Road entrance has also undergone some drought resistant plantings, since we do not have irrigation in that area. We hope you agree with the changes and we want you to know, there are more changes on our schedule. Perhaps by the time this newsletter is printed.

I have been made aware of a few issues regarding fishing in the pond. I was recently notified by a neighbor, that someone was shooting the fish with a bow and arrow or spear. I walked over to the deck and did witness a large fish, which was caught without a proper fishing rod. At the same time the boy's father came up on a bicycle carrying a loaf of bread. It appears they were throwing the bread into the pond and then shooting at the fish when they came up to feed. I asked if they were Emerald Garden residents and the father said yes. They then took off on bikes, with a fish on the end of an arrow. I tried to follow on foot, but it appeared they left the subdivision. This brings up several concerns, one being safety. According to Florida Fish & Wildlife, it is illegal to feed the wildlife, which includes feeding fish with food or garbage, in a manner that attracts additional fish. We have also been trying to get the pond in compliance with Sarasota County, so we can apply for a grant to add filtration and an aerator. Next, it has come to my attention that several people have been seen fishing in the backyard of the residences on Opal and Topaz. Unless it is the resident of that property, all fishing should take place at the north end of the pond. As posted fishing is to be by residents only and I encourage anyone who sees activity to call the Sheriff's Department non-emergency number @ 941-861-5800. The legal address of our deck is 4402 Diamond Circle N and is the legal property of the Emerald Gardens Homeowner Association. I note that the Emerald Gardens has paid to add fish (Triploid Grass Carp) to the pond on a couple of occasions. These fish help maintain the health of our pond, which will move us toward compliance with the county.

We have also had inquiries regarding speeding vehicles through the subdivision. I would encourage all residents to follow the posted 25 mph speed limit for the safety of everyone in our community. The county has previously had a speed monitor in the subdivision which shows your speed. I believe when Bliss Road was closed due to hurricane Irma that caused a lot of additional traffic through Emerald Gardens that hopefully will now be relieved.

While walking the neighborhood, I've also noticed violations concerning vehicles blocking the sidewalks and some vehicles parked on the lawn. This is not only a county violation, but also a deed restriction violation. Please be courteous to the walkers and save the postage for mailing out violation letters. There also continues to be yard post lights out. This is also a deed restriction violation (letters do not go out until the light has been out for about a week). If you are going to be away, please ask a neighbor to check your light. This the only street lighting we have and it was originally designed for safety.

It's the board's goal to keep Emerald Gardens real estate values high with everyone's cooperation keeping the properties in compliance.

Lastly, if you live on Diamond Circle North and your home backs up to Wilkinson Road, please make sure to keep your shrubbery trimmed, so it does not damage or hang over the wall. It is the homeowner's responsibility to follow these guidelines.

Please refer to the Emerald Gardens Web Site to be kept informed with information regarding our subdivision.

Regards,
John Kelner

Board of Directors



PresidentJohn Kelner
Vice President.....Phillip Lucia
Secretary Melanie Marsh
Treasurer Virginia Phillips
Member at Large..... Chuck Berster

Business Manager:

Kevin Billingsley, CAM37024

Newsletter Editor: Kevin Billingsley

Webmaster: Kevin Billingsley



*Welcome to our
newest homeowners!*

**Massimo Olivella &
Alessandra Do Carmo**

4429 Diamond Circle West

SEMI ANNUAL MEETING



**SAVE THE DATE [DATE
IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE]**

The Emerald Gardens Semi Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 26, 2018 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. Door Prizes to four (4) lucky homeowners!

From the Management Desk

Recently the Board of Director's conducted a neighborhood walk through. This is typically done in the early part of the year. The purpose of the walk through, is to check for obvious and up-front Deed Restriction Violations. The summary of this year's walk through resulted in 13 letters going out to different homeowners.

What were the most common violations? (For complete details of each restriction, please read our deed restrictions in full) They can be found on our web site, under the "Documents" tab)

1. A/C & Pool Equipment: Both A/C and Pool Equipment must be fenced or landscaped so as not to be plainly visible from the neighboring property or common area.
2. Garbage and Trash Disposal: In general, garbage cans must be stored out of view, or substantially shielded/screened from neighboring properties or common areas. Containers must also be returned to their location not more than 24 hours after collection.
3. Care and Appearance of Premises: Each owner shall be responsible for maintaining all landscaping, grass, driveways, structures and grounds in good condition and repair in a neat and attractive manner, to include mowing, edging and clippings cleaned up.

These were the most violated violations. The Board is appreciative of all homeowners who follow the restrictions.

Kevin Billingsley

Community Association Manager, CAM37024

GEM Award

As we move out of spring and into the summer months, the board decided to make a change this year. Rather than award the GEM on two different occasions, it was suggested we combine the two and give one award this year.

What is the GEM? The GEM is an award given to the most improved property and/or with superior curb appeal*. We post the GEM sign in your front yard for a few weeks and you also will receive a \$100.00 gift card to a local restaurant.



Interested? Now is the time.

Pick up some colorful plants, perhaps some fresh mulch and enjoy the outdoors!

The GEM Committee will be going around in mid-July and the award will be announced at the Semi Annual Meeting. Time to plant!

**Board Members, Committee Members and Management are not eligible for the award.*

Curb Appeal Checklist

Cleaning out and sprucing up your yard are good low-cost alternatives to major home improvement. Whether you hire a professional or have the skills and tools to do it yourself, here are some tips to improve your lawn and landscape:

- Weeding, edging, planting beds and mulching go a long way toward improving a yard's look.
- Planting colorful annuals in beds or pots around the house and patio, in hanging plant holders or in flower boxes makes a house look cared for and cozy.
- To solve problems or add interest, plant new trees and shrubs to create focus areas, or to camouflage foundations and old fencing, or block unsightly views.
- Have your trees and shrubs professionally pruned, fix brown spots in the lawn and remove and replace diseased plants.

Homeowners who want help with their yard should seek an evaluation by a professional lawn or landscape firm. A professional can assess the health of the lawn, plants, trees and shrubs and offer recommendations for improvements.

Good luck!

Be Prepared for Disasters

If you think hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes and floods won't happen to you or that you don't need to insure against these disasters, you're among the nearly half of U.S. homeowners and renters who lack the insurance coverage to deal with potential losses, according to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

In a recent NAIC national survey, about 48 percent of homeowners and renters said they did not have an inventory of their possessions. Of those who reported having a checklist, 32 percent had not taken any pictures and 58 percent had no receipts validating the cost of their possessions. In addition, 44 percent of respondents acknowledged that they had not stored their inventory in a separate location.



Here are some tips from the NAIC to help you prepare for disasters:

- ✓ Take an inventory of your valuables and belongings. This should include taking photographs or a video of each room. This documentation will provide your insurance company with proof of your belongings and help to process claims more quickly in the event of disaster.
- ✓ To enable filing claims more quickly, keep sales receipts and canceled checks. Also note the model and serial numbers of the items in your home inventory.
- ✓ As you acquire more valuables such as jewelry or antiques, consider purchasing an additional floater or rider to your policy to cover these special items. These types of items typically are not covered by a basic homeowner's or renter's insurance policy.
- ✓ Remember to include in your home inventory those items you rarely use such as holiday decorations, sports equipment and tools.
- ✓ Store copies of all your insurance policies in a safe location away from your home that is easily accessible in case of disaster. You may want to store your policies and inventory in a waterproof, fireproof box or in a safe location such as a bank safe deposit box.
- ✓ Consider leaving a copy of your inventory with relatives, friends or your insurance provider and store digital pictures in your e-mail or on a website for easy retrieval.
- ✓ Know what is and is not covered by your insurance policy. You might need additional protection depending on where you live. Make sure your policies are up to date. Contact your insurance provider annually to review and update your insurance policy.
- ✓ Keep a readily available list of 24-hour contact information for each of your insurance providers.
- ✓ Find out if your possessions are insured for the actual cash value or the replacement cost. Actual cash value is the amount it would take to repair or replace your home and possessions after depreciation, while replacement cost is the amount it would take to repair or replace your home or possessions without deducting for depreciation. Speak with your insurance provider to determine whether purchasing replacement coverage is worth the cost.
- ✓ Speak with your insurance provider to find out if your policy covers additional living expenses for a temporary residence if you are unable to live in your home due to damage from a disaster.
- ✓ Appraise your home periodically to make sure your insurance policy reflects home improvements or renovations. Contact your insurance provider to update your policy.

Emerald Gardens HOA

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Thank You!

Just a quick note to thank all of our volunteers! From the Board Members who donate their time, the Welcome Committee, the Pond Committee, the GEM Committee, the Architectural Committee, our Flag Man, our holiday light squad and all of you that help out when no one is looking. We appreciate your help and could not do it without you! Thank you on behalf of E.G.H.O.A.

Happy 4th of July!

We encourage our residents to participate in Sarasota County festivities this year. Fireworks will close out the Grand Prix Festival and viewing is free from downtown Island Park and Bayfront Park. Siesta Key will also have a fireworks celebration and will be visible from Siesta Key beach, Crescent Beach, and on the Gulf and Intracoastal Waterway.

Go out and enjoy!



Thoughts to ponder...

- I checked into the Hokey Pokey Clinic & I turned myself around.
- Went to the Air & Space Museum but there was nothing there.
 - The Past, Present and Future walk into a bar... it was tense.
 - What happens if you get scared half to death, twice?
 - Frog Parking Only... all others will be toad.

