

VILLAGE WALK SOUTH
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Hi Everyone! This seems like a good time to post another Newsletter...

First and foremost... Where are all the bicyclists?? The walkers?? The sunbathers?? All those bikes parked at the pool?? The nude sunbathers?? Oops...that's VWNorth...

I guess we're all aware of the growing quiet around the neighborhood... Most of our snowbirds have headed north!! (Although Gary and Madie are still here... unfortunately, they will be leaving soon, too.) As much as we enjoy having everyone with us... it "is" nice to have the place to ourselves!! (I didn't really say that....) And of course, they have no idea of the parties we throw without them!!

While they get back into their cozy routines, I guess we will too! My only solace is that I know they are all missing this lovely town!

As most of you know, there was a regular Board meeting May 6th. There was only a handful of members in the audience, but the Board was all there, with Bob and Steve on "speaker phone". I think everyone will agree Sandy did an excellent job running the meeting. It was well-run, organized and got quite a bit accomplished. The minutes have already been posted online, but I'll mention just a few items anyway...

Big news is that the pool now has a self-locking gate! I'm sure we are all hoping this will keep unauthorized people from using it. Our jack-of-all trades, Dave, did the installation. Our live-in assistant, Tom Collins, did the assisting! ...and good thing, too...because he found a major flaw in the operation.... a person only had to reach his hand through the gate rails and open it from the inside! Ahhh hahhh ha!!... I laugh just thinking about the discovery!! Anyway, Dave and Tom figured out a way to combat that... But the remedy leaves us with a rather large expanse of white metal to look at... I might even say "ugly" white metal. ***So I was thinking one way to enhance the large bare surface would be to have a mass of colorful, overlapping tropical flowers painted on it, or a mass of Florida waterlife (turtles, crabs, lobster, etc.), then paint a few coats of polyurethane over it... I'm sure there are other ideas out there, too! And I know we must have a few artistic neighbors who might tackle this... maybe next fall when the snowbirds start coming back! Anyone having ideas for the gate or willing to volunteer their time to paint, could email me... I will pass it along to the Board. Give it some thought.

The other big news from the Board meeting was the entrance gates. After all the work Robert and Steve Guest did in getting the whole system operational, the gate arm broke from corrosion and non-use... The good news is, the up-graded arms will be replaced this summer. The activation will be put off until this fall when Robert and Steve return. They will get them activated and work out any other kinks that may arise. Do we dare hope?? for long-term activation??

And of course, during the meeting we got to hear plans about beautifying the eastern berm and the emergency gate area!! Won't that be WONDERFUL!!! The Board has a very reasonable proposal from Dale. Once they allocate the funds, I believe Dale can get started!!

.....UPDATE: Dale has already started this project! He has planted hedge shrubs on either side of the large gate. What a great start!!! He has also started cleaning up the berm starting from the south end... pulling dead shrubs, shaping the rest of them, weeding, etc. This is welcome news to everyone!!!

The next 2 board meetings will be Sept. 9 and Nov. 4, 2008.

Of current “landscape” news, Dale and his hard working crew have started on their semi-annual trimming. This seems like a somewhat daunting task to a layperson, but they tackle it with “gusto”!!! They started with the front entrance and pool area. And as I sit here in my den looking out the window to the pool... “THE BUSHES ARE ALL GONE”!!!! Then I slap myself upside the head and realize... THIS IS FLORIDA... THEY’LL BE FULL HEIGHT IN A MONTH!!!

(At this point the ARC might mention that all the grounds in VWS are the responsibility of the landscaper...a hired professional. *When the crew goes through trimming and clipping, they are doing what they were hired to do...by the Board for the Assoc.* It is not a private landscape company for individual homeowners. Every lot gets trimmed and thinned out thoroughly at the same time, the way the landscaper sees fit, without complaint from the homeowners. That’s part of what “community” life is all about. Sometimes it’s easy to forget. We work hard in our own gardens...but when it’s time for the landscaper, he is supposed to do his job... And what they do only creates healthier, fuller plants and more attractive gardens.)

The 15 beautiful, new palms Dale donated to the community are doing well. (We just have to hope that we don’t lose any more queen palms to the blight... knock on wood) A lot of the new palms went into surrounding the east parking lot... WoW!! It looks terrific!! Nobody’s going to accidentally back off that lot now, plus it gives additional privacy from Fountainhead. He did a terrific job.

I might mention that Dale, Tom Collins and Jesse Rolands (who keeps up the preserve) are investigating options to clean up the pond. Sand keeps eroding into the pond at which point wild grasses and weeds start growing. Once the summer rains start, I think most of that will be covered over with water, but the problem is still there. The Board may have some updated information at the September meeting.

Some people may have noticed that the large trees between my building and the building to the east of us have been removed. These were large, lovely looking trees...but they were Ficus Trees. Their root systems invade the ground and gravitate to any water supply, including water pipes in our buildings. This could have caused major problems down the road. This is an example of why we have the ARC...certain trees, plants and bushes are very invasive, hard to keep controlled and can be a nuisance. Please always go through the **ARC** when thinking of new garden ideas.

The **ARC** has started a short list of other “nuisance” plants. **These plants present all kinds of problems and extra (unneeded) work for the landscape crew, and they are the ones hired by the Board for the Assoc. to maintain and care for the beds, not the owners.** They invade established beds either slowly or rather quickly. It may be a plant that is a low-growing mat that sends out runners or an upright plant that sends out baby plants. (Some of these are the snake plant, wandering jew, spider and oyster plant, fern, and ficus trees. We know there are some already planted in the community, but we want to help prevent their further planting) Please consult your ARC guideline when choosing new plants, consider there

growing habits and proper placement. Some neighbors have planted shrubs that block sprinkler heads from reaching needed areas, other neighbors have planted baby trees under the eave or right in front of windows. These are inappropriate locations...the trees will grow up to be quite large!

(Plantings on the East End of the development...and just as another reminder to everyone, ...new landscaping ***has not*** gone into ***the eastern end of the community*** because of the ***“drainage problem”***! I know some people on 7th St, 6th Manor and 6th St. seem to forget about this and get upset, but any part of that east end could get dug up for trenching, road work, etc. A number of homeowners have gone through the ARC and installed their own plantings or put plants in pots...this is all with the forewarning that once correction of the drainage gets started, things will be getting dug up...and won't be saved.)

Speaking of the pond and the preserve, there have been more and more sightings of birds and animal life! Not living on the “lake front”, I enjoy watching from one of the benches...but only occasionally catch a glimpse. A number of people have enjoyed watching the otters, and Murielle McKinley described how she was able to watch AND HEAR one of them enjoying a delicious fish it had caught!!! YIKES! That's really up close and personal! What a treat!! (...we do trust Murielle...don't we??)

And Hank Schulte has mentioned the great bald eagle that took up temporary residence!! Those big birds love a big, dead tree for resting or nesting. A huge eagle nest has been spotted just off south U.S. 1 on the southwest side of Indrio Rd...with THREE eagles in it... must be a mom and eaglets! I need to check this out.

Hank seems to really know his bird population...he tells of several families of White Ibis, White Egrets, Little Blue Herons, Great White Herons and Great Blue Herons, all enjoying their stay at VWS!! And according to Hank, our resident author, also “ugly, but compelling Woodstorks”! He also mentions that very noisy racket from the preserve was a “baby limpkin”! Apparently calling for some ‘fly-by food’ from its momma... It must have grown and flown off, because peace is back in the preserve!

Speaking of Hank, what a schedule this man keeps... up before dawn (6 am), has breakfast, then 1 ½ hr. workout at the health club, (yes, you read it correctly), then home to work on his historical book of the Civil War.... He is hoping to be finished with his book in Sept....which I certainly hope...because we *know*... when the snowbirds start coming back in the fall, Hank will have his hands full on the ARC!!! (you know who you are snowbirds...)

Local Weather I'm sure everyone's been hearing about the wild fires. They started last week, north from Port Malabar and south to Okeechobee. Many people working in Vero Beach and living north of us (and vice verse) have had an awful time trying to get back and forth. For a while Interstate 95 at Rt. 60 was closed, as well as U.S. 1 north of us. A few employees from Vatland who live up that way have lost their homes to the fires. It's such a tragedy. And now the authorities believe it was arson and have one man arrested. For Vero Beach residents it has meant some very hazy mornings...not good for the bronchia, but it seems to diminish by midmoring. Today, Tuesday, May 20th, we are expecting afternoon showers, which should continue through Thurs. If we can get enough rain, it will certainly

help the situation. Unfortunately the “dry weather” was bad for the brush fires... but, my... it was so pleasant to enjoy the outdoors!! NO HUMIDITY!!! WOW!

....Update: We had one REALLLLLY BIG storm here over the long weekend!!! The sky got very dark.... Distant rumbling.... Heavy, heavy rain. Then it hit with a fury!!! Great loud bursts of lightening and thunder...RIGHT AT OUR DOORWAY, PRACTICALLY!!! Soon the electricity went out throughout a lot of Vero Beach. VWS was without power for six or seven hours. We happened to make it to Vincents Pizza shop moments after they got power, so they invited us in. We were the only ones there, but withing 45 min. the whole restaurant was packed! We were expected to get another storm the following day, but it never happened.

Let's talk about Parties... We are trying to carry out Larry and Pat Moores wishes... (yes, I'm throwing you under the bus, too, Pat!) and continue with our End-Of-The-Month party schedule... but it's getting harder and harder... At the end of April we had a nice party in the clubhouse. Maybe 18 or 20 people had gathered for it... BUT HALF OF THEM WERE SNOWBIRDS WAITING FOR FLIGHT! Again there was plenty of yummy food and drink. Not knowing if there might only be 8 of us who showed up for it, I brought in soft lighting, tablecloths, table decorations and candles outside to help make it look special. Tom Collins came through with adding dimmer switches to the overhead ceiling lights, so they were softer, too. And Maureen took an early peek at it and thought she had gone back in time to her prom! You other ladies missed getting some very yummy recipes that night! Maybe we could add a category on the website of “Favorite VWS Recipes”!!

Now, the end of May is approaching... I'm thinking this next party will be down to a 4-some for cards!!! And that would be ok, too... as long as there's still some yummy food and drinks! We'll see what happens.

Of special note, the Collins had their annual St. Patty's Day party and what fun it was!!! The house was full of people, laughter... and GREEN!! Plenty of wonderful corned beef for everyone, too! ...and ohhhh, that “secret” Irish coffee recipe!!! Mmmm-mm! Tom's uncle is in charge of that and won't give the recipe out to anyone!! I say... as long as we can enjoy it, that's OK!!!

And this looked like one fun party.... Dorothy Francis held a party in the clubhouse for the “Red Hat Society”!!! All these lovely ladies dressed in hats and outfits in red and purple colors! What a great festivity! There was lots of fun and laughter by all.

And Anna Tanacs held a very special birthday party for her husband, Joe, at the clubhouse. The whole neighborhood was filled with their family and friends celebrating! I can only imagine what great ethnic foods were served!

Chris Dean had her whole family from out of town gathered this past week at the Disney Resort in Vero Beach to celebrate her mothers 87th birthday! There were children, grandchildren and great grandchildren!! (Chris has 2 grandsons, Jackson and James who she would be thrilled to tell you about.) They decided to rent one of the 2 bedroom, beachfront cottages which would double as their gathering place, as well as hotel rooms for the rest of the family. What a wonderful gathering for her mom!

There's nothing better than to be surrounded by your family... well... at least for a little while... kidding!!!

Michelle and Dann Jacobus will be celebrating his "big" birthday in June (you didn't hear it from me, but he will be "60" years old!). They will be traveling to the N.Y. and PA area to share this event with his whole family...children, grandchildren, mom, etc.!!! I know it will be wonderful!

Babies!!! Under this heading I only have 2 New Additions to report...

Mary and Robert Guest greeted the arrival of their first Grandson!!! Christopher Brian Guest (what a wonderful name!). And for a very special appearance, he was born on Mothers Day!! What excitement! I know they are already planning for his first trip to VWS!!! Congratulations!!

And not to be outdone, Maureen and Tom Collins greeted the arrival of their first Grandson this past December!! (oh my...another Irishman!) He weighed in at 10.7 lb (oh my... a BIG IRISHMAN!) His nickname is "PJ" and he has twin sisters who JUST TURNED 2 YEARS OLD!!! (I wonder how often grandma and grampa Collins will be babysitting!!! Ahhh ahhh ha They'll have to do it in shifts!)

While we're talking about Grandsons, you may have noticed Karen and Russ Mann at the pool with their Grandson, Cooper!! Cooper's been around for awhile... he's all of 2 years old!! But one is never too old to brag about ones Grandchild!! And what a wonderful age! (as grandparents, they don't have to worry about the "terrible two's")

And did I mention Chris Dean has 2 two little Grandsons???

I think I see a pattern here...

Travel News! We do have a number of wonderful trips to list...

Verity Minahan left on a very special trip this past April. She went home to England to celebrate! (This was Verity's first trip home in 8 years.) This was to celebrate her own birthday, her sister's 80th birthday, her great nieces birthday **AND** her sister's 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!!! This was some homecoming for her...nonstop! Verity spent part of her trip in Berkshire and in Kensington with her niece and husband, and the other part of her trip in Essex with her sister and husband. She reports being quite spoiled by everyone with her favorite foods and lots of shopping to work it off!

Chris Dean took a very special trip last month, too. She and her daughter, Jill from Kansas, met up for a very special treat...just the two of them on a trip to St. Johns Island in the Caribbean! Lots of snorkeling, scuba diving, kayaking... (Whew!!! She must need a vacation now!) And of course they had time to relax in the sun and sand and enjoy some very fine food! Jill is a busy doctor and mother of two, so this type of trip was quite unique...Congratulations ladies! You're very lucky...

And Karen and Russ Mann are anxious for their next trip to beautiful Jekyll Island, Ga! Every anniversary they make the trip to the historic district and share the celebration with friends... this will be their 24th Anniversary!! For their very special big 25th anniversary they are hoping to travel to the Napa Valley...mmm mm... what wonderful wineries!! You must tour as many as you can...

Maddy and Gary Foster took another wonderful cruise through the eastern Caribbean with their friends and had a wonderful time! Lots of beautiful scenery and pampering!!

Bob and I had a wonderful family vacation this past year to Aruba! Kathi and her boyfriend flew from Boston and met us in Aruba. This was a new destination for all of us...so it was fun sharing it together...for the first time! Of course, us going out of the country with her boyfriend was a first, too... We all had a wonderful time; it's an island I would go back to.

And Mary Webster and her hubby, Robert, had another wonderful trip to Italy!! This must be her 6th trip... but I'm not jealous... Usually they head for Tuscany.. (ohh, how very dreary...) Kidding!!! (now I'm jealous..) But this trip they visited Rome! What a beautiful, exciting trip that must have been!!

Betsy and Terry Myers took a long, leisurely cruise to South America for two weeks and had a fantastic time!

Restaurant news.... this list gets kind of long... so let's blame it on Karen for mentioning Ginza Grill!! ;-)

Karen Mann read the Press Journals food critic review actually "criticize" the **Ginza Grill** sushi... She and Russ are regulars and insist their sushi (as well as their other fare) is delicious! They recommend the restaurant to everyone! This food critic sounds a lot like the "movie critics" we read...

....Update: This food critic just got blasted in the editorials today by another reader who's tired of the critics "poor reviews"....

And who doesn't know that **The Patio** restaurant closed??? Serving one evening, closed the next morning! Closed for good... no warning to any employees. There were numerous articles in the newspaper. Ralph Sexton (who owns the property) and his family vow to reopen... This is wonderful news. The restaurant has had its ups and downs, but it's still been a favorite watering hole, regardless.

Who has tried **The 3 Aves** restaurant??? This is over on Miracle Mile by Chico's clothing store... Well... this is my new favorite spot. Very, very sleek, hot New York looking night club...wow! Mixed drinks, \$11, food comparable, and all ala'carte ... but still.... It was very sleek!!

Light jazz band, dance floor, leather sofas, dark interior... very dark... A huge outdoor bar and patio... more leather sofas, ...low, fire-pit tables with comfy chairs... lush outdoor plants enclosing the patio... Well, as neat as it is EVERYONE IN TOWN (BEACHSIDE & WESTSIDE) WAS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE OUTRAGEOUS PRICES...

Someone must have been listening, because now the drinks are only \$9. I believe the food prices came down, also. And whoever owns it seems to enjoy redecorating and moving the furniture around... the interior has been lightened up & looks very nice, booths have been split up, moved and so have sofas... (Or they might be trying to fit the restaurant "style" more to Vero Beach than New York city... this 'could be' a bad thing..) Anyway you look at it, it is a change! The food's very good, too!

The Undertow downtown on Olde Dixie... I hope the same lady still owns it because the food was wonderful!!! She's been a local chef for years. This has kind of a small, club atmosphere.

Pizzoodless's Italian restaurant on Royal Palm Pointe... Yummy! Kind of loud when it's busy, but sooo good. This owner/chef has been in Vero for years and was the owner/chef of Guytano's....an amazing place!

The Red Onion on Ocean Dr. across from the Boardwalk... fabulous sandwiches! And what a view!!

Hurricane Grille behind Dennys at Kmart plaza... great wings! And all different flavors!! Try the Garlic, Parmesan or the Thai Ginger and garlic (hot). I believe this is a chain, but still worth a trip. They even have a real nice plant enclosed patio out front...

Jersey Mikes next to Pats Hallmark on Miracle Mile. Great, fresh subs and wraps. You'll really enjoy it there.

The Driftwood on Ocean Dr....one never knows if the food will be great... or not! But what a spot!! Big ol' deck right on the beach... what could be better! It's always enjoyable. And they've finally, (after many, many years) gotten new deck tables, chairs and umbrellas...people who've been here a long time will know what I'm talking about...

And "oh my" let's not forget that Glorias place on Ocean Dr. will be opening ANY MINUTE!!! Looks like something from South Beach, but nobody asked me....

THE OLIVE GARDEN!!! Finally opened out by the mall. One of my favorite chains! We tried it about 2 weeks after it opened and they still needed to work out the special flavors of their recipes... but I'm sure that's not far off.

Ruby Tuesday's, which is right around the corner from the Olive Garden on 58th Ave... this isn't anything like the old chain that I remembered. Wow. It's been rejuvenated!!! It has a very calm, relaxed atmosphere... clean and fresh looking. Staff is always real good... AND THE FOOD IS TERRIFIC!!! They even have one of the only salad bars around... it's not a huge one, but it has all the goodies you'll need... kept fresh and full.

Movie News:

The Majestic Movie Theater, the old theater at Kmart Plaze was gutted and renovated. It just opened last week, and how nice!!! It has 11 theaters, first run movies, and fresh popcorn!! It's all been rearranged from the old setup...supposed to look like the theaters of old, but I think they missed the mark somewhat... This is sooo close and handy... easy parking, easy to get in and out of the theater... AND CHEAPER!!! Our "senior" tickets were each \$2 cheaper than out at the mall... (and of course a matinee would be a little less) the popcorn and drinks were cheaper, too... I think by \$2 again...

IRONMAN... everyone MUST see it!!! It's action, adventure, wonderful photography, great cast, great music, lots of low-keyed humor (it was often so low-key and soft spoken that you could miss it) ... AND... no nudity or foul language... I didn't know they made that kind of movie anymore!!! It was a really fun ride!!!

INDIANA JONES...thrills and excitement. Indy's looking a little worn.

NATIONAL TREASURE II... is out on video... WOW, great film! Better than the first. We get to meet his mother this time! Lots of low-key humor again.

Misc. Stuff!

Michelle and Dann Jacobus are very thrilled to have finished and be all moved into their new home in Fuquay Varine, NC. This sounds like a lovely little town just southeast of Raleigh with rich farmlands...(presently enjoying a large crop of strawberries) with soybeans and tobacco the main agriculture. Dann is working on the landscaping (although from the photo it certainly looks gorgeous!!), while Michelle is "tweaking" the inside decorating. I know Maureen and Tom enjoyed their hospitality on their drive home to Conn.

And Betsy and Terry Myers finished their new home in Nawland, NC and are very excited to be moved in! It's a beautiful, large home with lots of windows over looking the hillsides. This is nestled on a wooded hilltop...should get lots of cool, mountain weather! Enjoy, Enjoy!

And although Susan and Mike Hanner haven't built a Carolina home, they are equally as excited to be moving to VWS permanently this July from New York state! It seems to be time to retire and have a change of pace...let's hope they are ready for these summers!!

On an entirely different note, I found out that Earl and Jennine Jensen had a real shock! He was outside when fire ants bit him! He is one of those few people who have a severe reaction. Even though he immediately took Benedryl, his face, throat, hands and feet began swelling. Breathing became difficult. Fortunately, their neighbor Mary Guest (a registered nurse), was close at hand and called 911 immediately!! Earl is fine, but he does carry an Epi-pen with him at all times. Fire ants are a part of the Florida landscape, especially during rainy weather. They can be in very visible, large sandy mounds or in tiny, unnoticeable garden areas... the use of garden tools, gloves, shoes and socks are easy preventive measures. If you do notice a fire ant problem, you can notify Deb Coburn and she can have Dale treat the area... local stores also carry fire-ant killer. I keep a bag in the garage.

Again, an entirely different note, but Very Upbeat... many VWS residents who make it over to the post office or to that terrific little restaurant, Italian Delight, will have noticed something different lately at Tropic Square... **THEY'RE RENOVATING THE WHOLE PLAZA!!!** Santa came early this year!!! WoW... I figured it was time for demolition, it was so nasty looking... But they're going to liven it up instead. They have covered the wood siding with stucco, removed the little signs overhead, **FILLING IN THE PARKING LOT...**and I assume repaving it when they're done! In a very humorous mood, one

of the postal workers joked they'd be adding a parking deck on top!!! (we all know they could use the space!!) This is very good news for us at VWS.

Home Goods and Marshall's (behind the new Olive Garden) are getting ready to hire. This means the opening is not far off!!!

To keep up with them, our local T.J.Maxx has remodeled their interior. A new check-out system seems to keep things running smoothly. Better and larger display shelves help improve product display.

Local gas is \$4.06/gal.

Widening of US#1 from 4th St. to Oslo Rd. is suppose to start this coming Monday...that'll be fun!!

My good buddy, Pat Moore, sent along this little kitchen "tidbit"... WHICH IS WONDERFUL!!! This is regarding the many, various boxes of kitchen wrap we all collect in our kitchen cupboards or drawers...and the tendency the rolls have of "popping" out of the box when you go to pull out a strip.... Very frustrating!!! Apparently on each end cap of the roll is a "tiny", almost "invisible" notice... **"Press Here to Lock End"**. After reading her email, I ran directly to the kitchen, checked a roll and sure enough!!! So I immediately popped in all the ends, and Wow!!! Problem Solved!!! Thank heaven for emails!!!

Just as a heads-up,*** if anyone is thinking about redecorating their home and would consider donating their ex-sofa or club chairs to the Clubhouse, please jot me an email with the details. I can preview the furniture then get in touch with the Board.

With our fairly large Canadian contingency, here are a few items for them:

Here's something... Steve Guest was telling me about a Canadian holiday... Victoria Day... yes, this is an English holiday named for the Queen of England! And party people that these Canadians are, they refuse to give it up!!! And apparently, now adays (is that a word??), they've turned it into a "weekend" celebration!!! (no wonder it's so quiet when they leave VWS!!)

And I think most of us (that would include me...) remaining at VWS are pretty happy to hear that they are suffering from miserable, 40 degree weather!(KIDDING!!)I guess our rainy, humid summer weather does have some appeal... (NOT!)

****I hope you have all enjoyed the "updates"...** As the summer progresses, you may feel like sending me some information for the next newsletter, I'd love it. Remember: Travel, Marriages, Anniversaries, Restaurants, Movies, Etc.!! (I added a nice section of VWS photos, but I think it made too much information to email)

I am thinking of giving us women who stick out the summer here a "tag name..."

"Summer Ladies"!

(Some are not!) ...ahhh hahh hah

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

