

VILLAGE WALK SOUTH

THE VILLAGE PRESS

September 2010

Hello Again Everyone!

Can you believe it...finally...it's Fall! ... Autumn!or in Florida terms, ***the Other Summer!*** Actually, I have noticed that some of our evenings are a little more pleasant; especially catching the breezes on an evening walk...this is 'such' a good indication! And aren't we fortunate that we had such an uneventful hurricane season...let's hope September is as calm! In fact, it's been extremely hot and dry (as in 'no rain') this summer. And of course, we could have ***used*** the rain to help check out our new "drainage" system in the community. Finally, after a day or so of rain, the construction areas were put to the test.

VWS Community Update

Although I'm not a drainage expert, I have become somewhat adept at sloshing through these swale areas without breaking my neck! And I must say, I've been impressed at the improvements made...that's not to say everything is perfect yet...there is still some work to be done! That will take a little more time, but at least we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Driveways are vastly improved. The recent rains left some water pooling in the driveways...but still, what a difference! Swales running behind the homes on the south side of 6th St. appear to be soaking up water through the new drains and grading that was done. The trellised backyards had the swales re-graded and drains installed.

There are areas that need more work, so the job will continue...things are being worked out with the engineer and contractor. Your patience is still very much appreciated. If you have noticed a specific problem or concern, please email a '***brief***' note to our Site Mgr., Deb Coburn, who will pass your concerns on to the board. (coburnandcompany@bellsouth.net)

It's unbelievable the problems that have cropped up during this construction effort, and yet Tom Collins and Steve Guest have pushed and persevered through all the issues...and all of it done long-distance...which doesn't make it easy. It's only fair that the community understands the great amount of time and energy they have gone

through to improve the conditions for the homeowners in the affected areas. Thank you Steve and Tom for all the work you have put into this! (and are continuing to do!)

And it couldn't have happened without the hands-on work of Dale Bushong! With Steve and Tom both out of town trying to oversee things, Dale was our on-site unofficial coordinator and expert. Dale worked tirelessly on this project...always looking out for the interest of VWS. He performed his regular responsibilities throughout the community (as best he could around all the mess) as well as 'unofficially' overseeing the construction job. We're very fortunate to have him on our team! Thank you so much, Dale!

Enough about all the headaches they went through! What else is new... Ahhh! The gates! Another headache! Most everyone who's spending the summer here knows the gates started malfunctioning again... (and it seemed to be going so well)! Mike Hanner was spending more time with the gates than he was at home! But I think the consensus now is Mike will leave them open until our "master engineers" get back here for the winter! Robert and Steve will have their hands full!

I guess I might as well mention another problem...the pool heater has finally died! Apparently the pool was losing water. When the pool maintenance tech checked that out, he found out it was due to the non-functioning heater. Something about something. (The water runs through the heater as it goes through the filter???) So, the board is getting quotes on replacing it before winter sets in... we wouldn't want our tender 'snowbirds' getting a chill this winter!

Ohh! On the bright side, we have new pool umbrellas! The old ones slowly died off and were removed. Now we have 4 large, 2 tiered 'market' umbrellas...and no more stretching and climbing on top of the tables to tilt the umbrellas...these have the **auto-tilt feature!** Lovely! Just crank them to the full open position then crank **a little more** and they start tilting...effortlessly! They also have attached "ties" to keep them closed...no more 'bungee cords'! They aren't getting much use right now, but once winter is upon us, there'll be lots of activity at the pool...

PLEASE TREAT THEM KINDLY

...we want them to last as long as possible!

(Thanks goes to Michelle Jacobus for so much work getting this handled!)

Also, at this time the Clubhouse library is rather depleted of **books**. We would sure like to see the shelves replenished! If you're cleaning out your book shelves any time soon, please consider donating to our library. That would be great! And we seem to be missing a number of folding tables in the Clubhouse. So, on the same note, if you have **any folding card or banquet tables** you aren't using any longer, we could sure use them! Give it some thought!

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Summer is the time for travel and it seems N. Carolina is one of the favorite places! Bettina Boudrot, Betsy and Terry Myers, Michelle and Dann Jacobus, and Pat and Larry Moore have all been enjoying this beautiful change of scenery...the mountains, rolling hills, and the forests! Wow! Can anything be more beautiful? Although like here, their temperatures have been very hot, too...but no ocean breezes... (since we're stuck here, I have to keep rubbing that in!)

Fay Sullivan had a wonderful trip out to another "beautiful" area...Colorado! She has family and friends she visits every year. Winter, spring or summer...what a state! There's always a lot to do outdoors...

And Mary Webster took her annual jaunt up to Maryland and then to Chicago...family, friends...and doctors! But this year...she had her brand new Honda to put through its paces! (Don't tell me any problems, Mary...) School is just around the corner, so I know she's trying to get back into the swing of things.

But what could be **MORE** exciting than a brand new **grandbaby**?? Ruth and Art Haeberle are very excited about their **FIFTH** grandbaby!! Wonderful!! This new little guy is named Charlie Matthew...and I hear he's giving his grandparents a real run for their money! (Exercise takes on a new form!) And plenty of exercise is just what Pat and Larry experienced on their annual family vacation...those grandkids never seem to stop! go, go, go!

But not to be out done... Terry Myers said his daughter just had a beautiful baby in June!

This is Terry's **FIFTH** grandchild, too! Baby Jackson Todd is the apple of Grampa's eye!

And what's not to love about sitting back and enjoying a few Bon Bon's? I'll have to ask Maureen Collins what it's like! She says that's her treat for keeping watch on those beautiful grand-babies!! (And what's grampa "Tom" doing while you're on "duty"??)

And **MOST EXCITING** (which many of you may already know) is getting news of your **very... first...grandchild!** Well, this news was delivered to Joanne Conine a few months ago. Ecstatic doesn't describe her! She has since found out her first grandbaby is a little **"boy"**...he is expected in November!! Congratulations, Joanne!

Summer is a great time for traveling the country and visiting all the children and grandchildren, then saying goodbye... until they visit Vero Beach in the winter! I hope you have all been having a terrific summer visiting friends and family...it's one of the best things we can do!

BUT...there is some **OTHER** exciting news. I mentioned in my last newsletter that Chris Dean was being treated to a family vacation by her children...renting a big place in Key Largo on the water. Well, unbeknownst (?) to her, on one lovely afternoon, all the family and friends gathered for a cookout around the pool...Drinking. Laughter. Children playing... **Then**...a small prop airplane begins flying towards them, along the waters' edge. This plane happens to be one of those "ad planes" pulling a large banner behind it... The group slowly eyeballs what the plane is pulling...a

large banner that reads **“Chris, will you marry me? Alex”**.... Anyone who knows Chris can hear her high pitched scream as I write this!! She and the group were totally surprised...they had no idea this was coming!

Alex, being the gentleman that he is, asked Chris’s mother for her hand in marriage...Chris’s, not her mother...

Then for the icing on the cake, one of the kids (I think) put the whole movie on **YouTube!!** OHHHH LORD!!! And Chris thought Alex surprised her....then this! What an event!

I hear she just got back from a brief trip and was thrilled with its performance!)

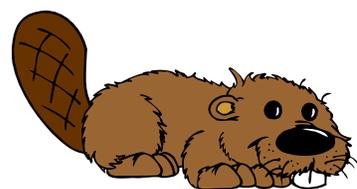
Not to be out done by Mary Margaret, Jeanne Coady has also adopted a little critter. She has named him **“Chipper”**...and he certainly is! A beautiful little tan chihuahua, a real sweetheart! You can see them walking each other nearly every day. **BUT...** I hope you’ve had the pleasure of seeing Jeanne walking her other roommate... **a beautiful little kitty cat!** Yes...a kitty cat! This is something you seldom get to see, but it is **so “precious”!** (Michelle J. should see this!)

This is our
“monster”
Buddy!

Now I think I should take a minute to introduce a few new members of our community...**those of you who aren’t fond of animals,** can **take a coffee break!**



But one of the funniest stories I’ve heard for a long, long time...comes from the beautiful lake shores of **Canada.**



On this boat, I’m a “Guest”!

Mary Margaret Hatch has adopted a beautiful little white poodle/bichon mix named **Teddy**. Teddy was given up for adoption and Mary Margaret just happened to be at the right place at the right time. Teddy is a little female (Teddy-Bear) and is **SO** well-behaved! I think this was a wonderful match. Congratulations, Mary! (And I can’t pass up this opportunity to congratulate Mary on her brand, new, beautiful...HONDA!



Steve Guest can write a funny, funny story...so I hate to even try and retell this, but I **have to!** He and Judy have a beautiful home on a large lake in Ontario. Picture a lush green lawn sweeping down a gentle hill to the lakes edge. On this lake they have a boat house, storing their fun motor boat... (I better stop and get a drink before I continue...I'll be right back) Ok, now I'm back... So...

Steve and Judy found out the hard way that a **family of beavers** had built a large messy nest inside their **boat house!** After **a lot** of work, and a few stray bullets, the family of beavers was **finally** run off! Thank heaven...it must have been a huge, stinky mess in there! (I spoke too soon) After the beavers left, **a family of mink** moved in! Yes! The beautiful, long, mink are even **more stinky** than the beavers AND their favorite food apparently is messy, **stinky crayfish.** So first the beavers, then the minks, then the crayfish....stinking up and littering not only the boathouse, but the inside of their lovely boat itself!

It's not over...eventually, a **family of otters** moved in! **Yes..can you believe it?** Well, I just can't imagine the site of all this going on...(Was Judy laughing or crying?) but they finally got rid of everyone... cleaned up the horrible mess in their boat and boathouse and finally felt they were done!

So one fine day they decide to take the boat out for a lovely, quiet ride... Once out in the water they realized there are **new messes and stinky odors** inside the boat again! But how can that be??? Nothing to do but keep going.....

Then... out of the blue, (why didn't you have a camera, Judy!) **a mink leaps up from inside the boat... below Steve's feet! Runs up and over his shoulders** and towards the back of the boat! ...You can visualize it running around for awhile, scared-to-death (along with Steve & Judy, I'm sure!), with Steve swinging a paddle at it! Finally it jumps out of the back of the boat and swims off!!!

I still love visualizing it! This is just too, too funny! Thank you for the story, Steve~ sut nammm

RESTAURANTS

I don't think there's too much new in the restaurant area. **Stevie B's Pizza Buffet** finally opened just last weekend. This is in the plaza by Home Goods. We saw a long line to get in, but haven't tried it yet. But if you read their menu....ooh la la...I think they will have some very tasty treats to try! For Instance: BLT pizza, BBQ pizza, loaded baked potato pizza, **MAC & CHEESE** pizza, etc. They also serve salads and desserts. Pretty inexpensive, too.

Saigon Sushi recently opened up, located on 14th Avenue. They serve Vietnamese, Thai and Japanese foods. They got a very good write up in the newspaper. It's just south of Avanzare restaurant.

A little hard-to-find place at the Ft. Pierce fisherman's wharf is called **12A Buoy** (where do they get these names??). Apparently it's a real hole in the wall, local place...no ambience, but terrific seafood! It took the newspapers' food critic three tries to find it! Better give them a call first, 772-672-4524.

Theatre-Go-Round on Aviation Blvd and Airport Dr. is geared up for Aug. and Sept. with their "Riverboats & Ragtime" musicals. This could be a fun, lively evening, but I haven't heard any reports about their food.

The **Citrus Grillhouse** (locally known as the "Grillhouse") got a great write up in the newspaper...both for food, décor and location (right on the ocean next to Nino's Cafe). It also mentioned the management will be buffering the indoor acoustics.

Did I mention last time that the **New Patio Restaurant** finally closed? Yes. It was a long, agonizing death, but they finally closed. Apparently the Sexton's are trying to get Jake Replogle, manager of the Ocean Grill, to take it over. Good News, if he does!

Patio update: Replogle has bought the restaurant! Excellent! And word is, that the new place will be an upscale Mexican restaurant! We'll wait and see....

You must try **Kata by Sake's**, right down the block from the Green House Café...wow...what wonderful food and sleek atmosphere!

And **Fujiyama Steakhouse** (right next to Stevie B's) is still serving up dynamite food! The place was packed last time we were there. And what's not to love about the table chef who squirts 'saki' into your mouth from across the table?? OHHhhh dear!

A little mom and pop restaurant that serves up some tasty Italian food is **Giorgio's**. This is hidden in the corner of a little strip plaza at the corner of 10th Ave. and 17th St. It's one of Maddy and Gary Foster's regular spots! We love the pizza!

We're still looking for a local restaurant that serves up some delicious **Poutine**...but haven't found one yet! If you hear of one, please let me know! And **sauerkraut balls**...why doesn't anyone serve them? I'm going to have to import some from Ohio...

AND SURPRISE! The new **SONIC DRIVE-IN** just opened up yesterday! Cars were lined up to go in...they had dozens of staff in the parking lot directing traffic. The whole place was filled. Think I'll wait till they work out some of the kinks!

Brewgrrs hasn't opened up yet at the remodeled Modern Age Plaza (now being called **Modern One**) on the curve at Miracle Mile... don't know what the delay is... maybe typical zoning problems.

Brewgrrs Update: Word on this is that it may open the first of September...just days away! I wonder if we can get a VWS discount?

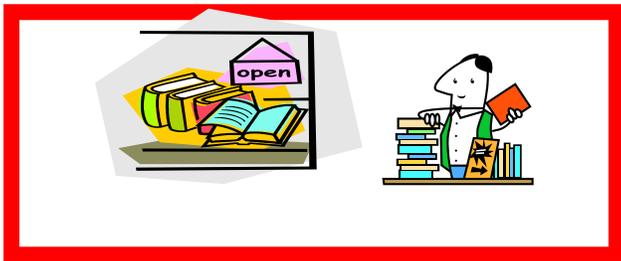
REMEMBER... THE GATE CODES WERE CHANGED...IF YOU'RE NOT SURE OF THE NUMBERS, ASK A NEIGHBOR OR THE SITE MGR. BEFORE YOU NEED THEM~~~~~

MISC.

Good news! **Hale Groves** is supposed to be opening up a new retail shop over at Miracle Mile *on the little side street, 7th Ave.*

They will have a garden nursery, produce, meats, seafood, fresh baked goods, flowers and pottery. They are hoping to open in October or November...can't wait!

Also, for anyone who gets up to the Wabasso area, **Publix** will be opening a new store on N. US#1 and 53rd St. Not sure of their opening date.



I keep meaning to draw your attention to a really great little **local treasure**...It's the Friends of the Library **Used Book Depot**. This wonderful book store is located on 14th Ave. just a half block north of 16th St. It's well run, wonderfully organized, and **CHEAP!**

Hard backs, paper backs, books on cd's, antique books, autographed books, movies, some puzzles and games. **IF YOU LIKE TO READ, YOU MUST STOP IN!** One of our neighbors, Verity Minahan, has been volunteering there for a long time. She and the other volunteers are happy to take requests if you're looking for a special book or author, etc. Older hardback books are \$1.00. The newest hardbacks are a fraction of the original cost, maybe as high as \$8-\$10. But if they are running a half price sale on their new books...\$5.00 or less!!! They had such an over abundance of books recently that they ran a sale (advertised in the Sunday-paper 'book section') on all \$1 hardback books ...they were 25 cents each.... **BOY WERE THEY BUSY!!!** (I made 3 trips there that week!) HAH!

And **Chuck's News Stand** has been a fixture in Vero Beach forever! It was the tiny place you could find just about any domestic or international newspaper and was located downtown across from the main post office (I know...you didn't know we had a "main post office"!) ...Anyway, if you're looking for Chuck's, it has moved to a little strip plaza on 17th St....kind of across from the side of Walgreens and Strunk Funeral home.

The local **Friday Market** at the Heritage Center is still going...although in the summer there are a lot less vendors. Hopefully, the **Saturday Farmers Market** on Ocean drive is doing well, too.

The same applies for the great big **Farmers Market** in Ft. Pierce, on the river...not as many vendors. But in the same vein, not as many patrons! (Which actually makes it a more relaxing event...but **HOT!**) Before you know it the vendors will be back, ready for the winter residents and going strong!

Did anyone notice the **Hallmark Store** at Miracle Mile has moved? Just down a few doors into a smaller location.

ABC Liquor will be opening up a brand new store sometime soon, just east of the Olive Garden. It looks like it's going to be **really** huge!

And Ruth and Art, get ready!!! The **Vero Beach Theatre Guild** will begin the new season with an Agatha Christie murder mystery!!! Yes! "The Unexpected Guest!" It will be the first drama there since 2004. Later in the season they will be presenting "On Golden Pond"! I know we have a lot of talent in the neighborhood... why not give it a try this year?

And okay, all you new opera buffs! The **Vero Beach Opera** has their schedule all lined up for the new season...which includes a full production of **"The Marriage of Figaro"**! But unlike the Majestic Opera events...there's no popcorn and diet coke included! (I might have to go, anyway...)

Fun times were had by all....that was the consensus at **Costa D'Este** Comedy night! Each Thursday evening two comedians perform for **"Comedy Night"** in their lovely Crystal room, which has an attached patio with bar set-up. This was a fun evening in an intimate atmosphere... I hope they continue this program.

SHOPPING MISC.

Ladies, we have some terrific gift shops around town...you probably already know about them, but just in case, I'll mention a few...

The **Otter Brown Gift Store** on the back, back road behind Kelly's Irish Pub. Wonderful gift ideas...it's fun to check them all out!

As mentioned earlier, Hale Grove's new store is on 7th St. (next to the Long Branch Saloon) and I'm sure it will be a fun place to explore!

And in the same plaza is **Toodles!** Hope you've had the occasion to shop at this consignment store ...fabulous pieces...you just don't know what you'll find!

And on the opposite side of 7th Ave. is **Waldo's Garden**...very unique pieces. You'll love it!

The Loggia Gift Shop at 1882 Old Dixie, is a fabulous place! Plan to take your time to check out all the nooks and crannies!

And just south of there at the corner of Old Dixie and 16th St. is the new **Red Rooster Junque Antique Shop** (I'm so cruel!) ... ANYWAY, it has lots of vendor booths under one roof, so no telling what you'll find!

Then just south of that is Johnson's Flower Shop...and **right next door** is a very interesting looking little shop... it's another gift shop of some type....but I can't remember the name. I'll have to check it out.

Across the street from that is another Antiques & Collectable shop...no information on that!



THRIFT SHOPPING!

How better to spend a lazy fall or winter day than digging through our fabulous **Thrift Stores!** And boy do we have a lot of them!!

On 14th Ave. north of 16th St. we have 2 thrift stores close together...

St. Vincent's Thrift Store and further north, **The Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Store!**

Old, dusty, musty, and filled to the brim! ...but it might be worth checking out!

Behind K-Mart Plaza on 10th Ave. is the John's Island store, **The Tambourine Shop**. Very well kept and well displayed items!

And right around the corner, east on 16th St. in a little strip center, is a great clothing consignment shop! Take your time while you browse through all the upscale clothing...it's called **Elizabeth's Fine Consignments**. Fun!

Recently moved is the **Goodwill Thrift Store**...it's in the K-Mart plaza by the post office. Great new space and well-organized!

Then at Miracle Mile we have the **VNA Thrift Store**...also very well-organized and fun to go through.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST....

(You know..., I can **hear** you "cheering"....)



**WALK TO
REMEMBER
11/13/10**

Anyway, I'd like to mention that a great fundraiser is coming up on **Saturday, Nov. 13th**. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!** It's the **Walk To Remember** for the **Alzheimer & Parkinson Assoc. of I.R.C.** This is a 5k walk at Riverside Park...it winds all along the river, and then across to the walk under the Barber bridge and back.

Last year nearly 800 people participated ...including a last minute team from **VWS**! This year **VWS** will have **"team" T-shirts!** Yes!

They will be pale yellow with a baby blue **VWS logo** on the left front of the shirt (where a pocket would be...but won't...). With a deposit, I will be ordering t-shirts in **medium, large and extra large**. Price should be minimal. Please get in touch with me **through email**.

This year there's time to build a larger team...so, friends and neighbors who would like to support the APA and spend a wonderful morning in the great outdoors, please consider joining. The sponsors provide rolls, juice, water, and freebie's before the walk begins.

The APA is in a brand new facility and provides many programs for caregivers as well as patients throughout I.R.C. all year long.

Or maybe you'd like to invite a few friends and make your own team, which is great, too! In that case call their office for information; 563-0505. It's all about raising money! Please give this some thought...

AND they're also **always** looking for **volunteers!** This could be doing office work; assisting with one of their programs like the exercise or art class (they want to start a "scrapbooking" class and need a leader and helpers); assisting with the "movie matinees" each week; folding newsletters for the monthly mailing. You could volunteer for a few hours a month, a few hours a week, or just on a yearly special events!

It's a great, fun group of people!
Call Carole at 563-0505. Thank you!

RENTING? IMPORTANT.

On an entirely different note, one of my favorite new stations is HGTV...what fun! Especially "House Hunters International"! We just saw a guy shop for a vacation villa in the Tuscany area of Italy...he had 3 choices...he went with the cheap...fixer upper...for \$65,000! YIKES!

It was really a demolition waiting to happen...but anyway, last night on "Income Property" they discussed renting homes...and it got me to thinking. We have a number of people who rent homes in our community. Why not pass some of this information on to them? Any reputable renter would be happy to comply with the following. So here it is:

- ✓ Set rents high enough and include a security deposit, pet deposit and application fee.
- ✓ Have unit in Move-In Condition.
- ✓ When you receive a response from your ad, do some screening on the phone. Ask questions: why are you moving? Where do you work? How long have you been there? Do you have pets?

If you're okay with what you hear:

- ✓ Set up an appt. to show the home.
- ✓ Request a work number for a reference.
- ✓ Request he bring his last 2 pay stubs.

An hour before your appt., call him to verify the appt. time. It could save you a lot of time and effort. When he arrives, do some more screening:

- ✓ How is his appearance?
- ✓ How does his vehicle look?

If you are impressed with your meeting with him, give him an application to fill out and charge him the fee mentioned above to process it... (maybe \$10-\$30)

- ✓ The fee will cover the charge to run his information through a **credit report service**, like Equifax. (The report will tell you how he pays his bills; whether he's been sued; if he's filed bankruptcy; and possibly more.) You have a large financial interest in your rental property and all this information is very important to you. If the report is filed online, it will be received almost immediately.

These are things important to you and to the neighborhood...consider everything...

UNTIL NEXT TIME....

WMS