Hello Neighbor!
As you know by now my wife and I have decided to move out of the village to a new part of paradise. With that comes feelings that are bitter sweet. Palm River has been a great place to live and raise our children. There is no other community that compares to Palm River. I’m thankful for the opportunity and experience of living here and working for the fine people of this community. In my letter to you with the dues notice I mentioned many of our accomplishments over the past 15 or so years. We have done a lot of good. But there is still much to do. I will speak more about this at this year’s annual meeting but here’s a snippet. Beautification - that’s it. Landscaping along the new sidewalks in the southern part of Cypress Way East where all the condos are and lots of other little pockets throughout the village.
One project coming down the road in a few years I’m told by the county is the replacement of the little bridge over the Palm River. This area is a diamond in the rough. So that’s it for now. I look forward to speaking more on the issues and ideas at the annual meeting which will be my last.
David W. Alger, Past President

Message From Your New President
First, let me thank the other board members for having the confidence to vote for me in our recent election for president, as a result of David Alger’s departure from Palm River. His are big shoes to fill. It is truly an honor to serve you, our residents, in this new role.

Briefly, I would like to echo David’s parting words and his and my plans for the future. There are only two entrances into Palm River – Palm River Blvd and Cypress Way East, both off Immokalee Road. All of us, and our guests, and service personnel come in and go out one of these two ways. Our goal is to make these two entrances so beautiful that Palm River becomes the envy of all of the neighborhoods in Naples.

We have already partially accomplished this with the Palm River Park. Shortly after it was formally opened, we heard that Pelican Marsh residents requested the county provide a park like we have. Imagine that! And we’re not even an exclusive gated community.

The main entrance bridge has been repaired (after it apparently got in the way of an errant vehicle), and it’s been pressure washed and painted. The smaller one-way bridge at Cypress Way East also has been pressure washed and painted. And the wooden-sided bridge over the Palm River at Viking Way and Palm River Blvd has been repaired (also after getting in the way of a vehicle), pressure washed and painted. Are we seeing a driver pattern here? We have been advised by the county that they intend to replace this quaint bridge at some point in the future but we may have a hand in its design. Actually, I think it looks pretty good right now and reflects the uniqueness of the community. But the county is concerned about its age and basic structure.

So we’re off to a good start this year. And planting season is beginning so you’ll be seeing more bright colorful plants along the Palm River Blvd median and at the entrance sign on Cypress Way East. A few small trees have been removed after some residents alerted us to a potential safety issue in that they obstructed drivers’ vision when approaching Piper Avenue. Cont on next page
There are a few areas that your board and I believe could use some improvement. For one, we’d like to extend the Palm River Park on Piper from Cypress Way East to the Airport Pulling bridge. Or at the very least, plant some trees and drought resistant bushes there. This may take some cooperation with the county and possibly the medical building management to the north of this property. The area to the south of the motel at the weir also could be improved, but again, it is county property and we’ll look to make it a cooperative effort as well.

Now that FPL has drastically trimmed the large trees at the apartments at Viking Way and Palm River Blvd, that area sure could use some beautification. Again, something requiring a cooperative effort since it is not Palm River property.

So how do we get all this done? Well, first by the efforts of your board of directors. But only with the voluntary dues paid by you, the residents. We view our role as managers of a small business. And you, the residents, are our customers. So we judiciously manage the revenues provided by you and try to efficiently get the most value for the revenues you provide us.

And that gets me to the message you’ll hear from me often. If you want Palm River to be a beautiful community, and you believe that it enhances our property values, then seriously consider beginning or continuing your membership by sending in your modest annual dues of $80 ($40 for condo residents). A real bargain. Because a beautiful looking community benefits all of us, members or not. Remember the adage we heard from our parents, or we tell our children, there is no free lunch. No revenues, no beautification efforts. Simple as that. We’ve come so far in the past couple of years. Let’s keep on improving the community so that we are the envy of Naples and people want to live here.

And...if there’s something you’d like to see improved, let us know. If you’d like to volunteer to help us, let us know that too. And if you’d really like to help, become a member of the board as vacancies occur.

That’s it. Thank you for letting me serve you as president of the board of Palm River Homeowners and Civic Association. My number’s somewhere on this newsletter. Call me if there’s something you’d like to share.

Ken Oehler, President
Palm River Homeowners and Civic Association

A Tribute to Our Outgoing President

Those of our readers who didn’t know that David Alger, our president, is moving out of the village received that information in his message on the front page of this newsletter. For the board, I am honored to salute the contribution David has made to our community. David moved into Palm River about 15 years ago and joined the PRHCA board in 2007. He accepted the presidency in 2014.

The most striking thing about David is his vision for the future. He has a very artistic nature. Not only does he paint but, at his shop on 10th Street (Whitman Designs, LLC) in downtown Naples, he creates very interesting and stimulating decorations in wood and metal. From the date of our first experience with him his vision has been a guiding light to the association.

To a great extent Palm River Park is David’s creation. It was a gleam in his eye long before the board developed hopes of accomplishing that ambitious project. When the possibility captured the board’s interest, his enthusiasm and optimism was infectious. His creative and artistic talents were put to good use in the early design, and his persuasive way with people drew the indispensable support of the former property owner, Jim Wallace, former County Commissioner Georgia Hiller and the other necessary county officials.

The board and I regret losing him as president but wish him all the best in the future.

For the board, Ken Oehler, President
Palm River/North Naples Reminiscences

Following up on the bits of Palm River history, in the Fall 2016 issue of Palm prints that were loosely quoted from Bob Forsythe’s recollections, we present a few more memories of older North Naples. This collection includes information from other local people. Extensive development in our area is so new that “old-timers” don’t have to be very old. We still have a number of residents in Palm River who (or at least their parents) were among the first to reside here.

Many will remember a “Drive In” movie theater at the southwest corner of Immokalee Road and Tamiami Trail. I think the screen was still there, but the theater inoperative, when I moved here in 1988. Even more will remember Immokalee Road as a two lane road. That was not very long ago.

Going back further, Bob Forsythe tells us Palm River was originally started “about 1960 by a group of members of the Pine Ridge Country Club in Willoughby, Ohio.” His first involvement was with the second group of owners in 1969. The Fairways Motel existed at that time apparently standing somewhat isolated on Immokalee Road. Palm River, beyond the motel, consisted of the beginnings of a golf course, a clubhouse further along a neglected boulevard and 41 homes. The club house just over the second bridge remained in that building until the newer one was built farther up the boulevard in the early 1980s. That newer building was replaced by the current clubhouse. Some parts of Palm River and Willoughby Acres still reflect names from those Ohio families and their Ohio locale.

Bob relates that in 1969, Naples and Collier County had 28,000 residents “and a lot of snakes and alligators”. The Naples area had “two banks and one Savings-And-Loan, one high school and one grade school”. He tells us the high school was so small and crowded that the junior and senior classes were from seven in the morning till noon and the freshman and sophomore classes were from twelve thirty until five.

One of our residents, Wes Dorris, says he moved here as a child with his parents about 1971. He lived “way out of town” at the southeast corner of Pine Ridge Road and Tamiami Trail. He remembers enjoying hunting in the wilderness north of Pine Ridge Road. The neighborhood young people created a race track to the northeast of the intersection, on what was then vacant land but is now part of Pelican Bay.

Much of the history of Naples and Collier County is available at the Naples Depot and the County Museum at the courthouse. There are also some very good books on the general subject but little on our community, Palm River. If you have reminiscences to share please send them to me. If you have old pictures of Palm River in its early days, if you will send them to me, I will copy them and promise to return them.

I again refer you to the eleven short chapters on Palm River history written by Bob Forsythe which appear on our website, www.PalmRiver.org. Bob was an excellent storyteller and his history of Palm River is quite nicely done.

Francis Hoy, Board Member

Caution!! The words you are about to read could save a life

What’s the first thing you do when you spot a police squad car up ahead? Yep. Me too. I check the speedometer to make sure I’m not speeding. And I slow down anyway just in case.

Recently, at the request of several of your concerned neighbors, motorcycle police officers have positioned themselves at various locations throughout the community and have begun issuing speeding tickets.

Well, all of your neighbors and friends here would appreciate if all of us would slow down on all the Palm River streets. Especially in the morning. And the afternoon. And the evening. Remember, the speed limit on all Palm River streets is only 25mph. And here’s something you may find interesting: The time you save in a mile and a half between 25mph and 35mph is 58 seconds. Yep. Less than a minute. And 35mph is too fast on our narrow winding streets anyway. And 45 or 50mph? Just plain foolish and really unsafe.

So please slow down. Please. Make it a habit. Then you’ll notice when you’re going too fast. Thanks.
LOCK YOUR VEHICLES

We frequently get reports from the Sheriff’s office of burglaries of unlocked vehicles. A recent report noted the frequency of stolen vehicles with the key fob left in the vehicle. Please remember to lock your car, even in your driveway. One report mentioned that the owner pulled his pick-up truck from the garage in the morning and went back into the house to finish his morning cup of coffee. Unfortunately he put his wallet in the glove compartment and left the truck unlocked. In that short time, someone stole his wallet.

We almost never hear of actual vehicle break-ins unless a valuable item is in plain sight.

Official Notice of Spring Meeting
Palm River Homeowners and Civic Association
7PM, Monday, March 20, 2017, at LaPlaya Club House

Please note that elections for five openings on the board of directors will be held.

Palm River Civic Association Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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Board membership nominations will be invited from the floor, provided the nominee has given permission.

All association members are eligible for membership on the board.

Current directors standing for reelection are:
- Ken Oehler
- Dianna Karakosta
- Jim Hudson
- Glenn Stevens

www.palmriver.org