



BROOKSHIRE BREEZE
www.brookshireclub.com
 Feb—Mar 2009



2009 Spring Luau

By Debbie Keller

**The Aloha spirit comes to Brookshire !!
 Come join the fun on Saturday, February 21st
 4:00pm at the Clubhouse Pool Area**

Brookshire is celebrating the opportunities of 2009, the significant strides, improvements and accomplishments of 2008 and finally, a celebration and thank you for all of our long-term and returning residents along with our new Brookshire families. Wear your Hawaiian shirt and we'll have some fun!!

Throughout the world, feasting has been and is a universal form of celebrating happy and important events. However, the Polynesians, and especially Hawaiians, have evolved this great pleasure into a truly unique cultural experience. Before contact with the western world, Hawaiians called their important feasts an 'aha 'aina. These feasts marked special occasions — such as reaching a significant life milestone, the launching of a new canoe or a great endeavor.

observed at an 'aha 'aina were rich with symbolism and the entire event was designed to unite the participants. Starting about 150 years ago the term luau gradually replaced 'aha 'aina. Luau, in Hawaiian and other Polynesian languages, is actually the name of the taro leaf, which when young and small is cooked like spinach and is often mixed with other foods, creating Hawaiian favorites such as luau squid or luau chicken; but today, luau is the commonly accepted name of a Hawaiian feast.

Although we won't be serving any taro leaf at our luau, we will have pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers as well as a number of great side dishes and desserts. **We would like to ask**

Historically, the food and practices

[Story continued on page 2](#)

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 21, 4pm Brookshire Spring Fling and Luau at the Clubhouse and Big Pool areas

February 24 - Annual Meeting at 7pm. Safe Harbor Community Church—12960 Plantation Road—3 Board members to be elected.

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families to bring their own beverages of choice and coolers with ice if desired.

The abundant food served at the modern Ali'i Luau represents the aloha spirit that brings guests and islanders together in a memorable setting. Or as some Hawaiians say, "Whenever you're at a luau, you are *'ohana* — or family." Brookshire has 569 different owners but we are

also one Ohana and would like to celebrate our community.

Can you say Hula Hoop and pass the coconut!! We will have some games and small prizes for the children and anyone wanting to contribute or volunteer for the planning, decorating, cleaning is greatly appreciated. Please contact Wilma Tarencz at 239-768-3224

History of the Luau from <http://www.polynesia.com/alii-luau/history-of-the-luau.html>

Please sign up at the Clubhouse with a count of all members of your family attending so we can plan accordingly. Thanks and see you there!

Announcing New Brookshire Online Forum

by Jeff Key



The Brookshire web site now has a forum section designed for community discussions online. The town-hall meeting style format allows Brookshire residents to voice their opinions on any subject whether or not the matter is currently on any official HOA agendas.

To join the discussion, all you have to do is go to the Brookshire web site at www.brookshireclub.com and click on the new forum button at the top of the page. You can start a new topic of your choice or you can reply to topics already posted. You can discuss board meetings, ideas for community events, searches for a handyman, or anything you want. It will be required that you submit your name, street name and be a member of good standing in the community to post to the forum.

Please be aware, postings will

be monitored daily with deletions occurring if messages are anonymous or are from members currently not in good standing. Likewise, comments that contain profane language or include written attacks on other people will be removed.

In conclusion, for many in our community, attendance at our board meetings is not possible. But for those that do attend, it is impossible to discuss all of the topics that interest or concern you at meetings due to time constraints. Using the forum you may address these topics and discuss them with the entire community. This forum is for you and all of us in Brookshire. Enjoy the discussion and come back to check it often

Summary

Q: What is the purpose of the forum?

A: Simply put, the intent of the forum is to facilitate a larger discussion and participation within the community. It adds yet another tool to 1) the meetings, 2) The Breeze and 3) the web site for promoting an enhanced level of communication. There are many reasons to produce a functioning forum.

- The time allotted even for just a few owners at a meeting is not sufficient to cover all topics.
- Some owners cannot attend meetings but may participate in a forum.
- The forum is connected to the web site so therefore will generate more traffic and potential downloads of the Breeze.
- Some owners would like more discussion at the meetings.

Some owners have expressed a desire to return to town hall meetings - the forum allows for a digital form of this.

Volunteer Directors and Neighbors work for Brookshire

By Debbie Keller



The list of everything done in 2008 is too long to include here, but below is a review of some of the work your volunteer board members and neighbors did in 2008. Thank you to all board members, owners, friends and families who helped make 2008 a great success for Brookshire. Keep up the good work.

Brookshire treasurer, Vince Hayes, joined the Board in July and has worked closely with other Directors and the management personnel in developing the 2009 budget, restructuring the reserve accounts, auditing the records and bills, and leading the efforts to collect monies from past due accounts. He is our liaison with the legal and management company personnel for collection matters and has met with representatives of the condo associations to determine if there are collection issues in which we can assist each other. Vince was also instrumental in working with our financial advisors to create interest-bearing accounts that will yield us several thousand incremental dollars in 2009. Vince has done a tremendous job in a short amount of time and under inconceivable circumstances.

Director, Lee Redmond, has been instrumental in ensuring that Brookshire facilities have been safe and well maintained in 2008. Lee had quite a long list of items that needed to be addressed when

he joined the board in March and he has tackled the majority of them. The items came from our suggestion box at the clubhouse, phone calls, emails, and staff members notifying him when things needed repair or refreshing. Lee worked tirelessly throughout 2008 in order to keep our facilities in top-notch shape. Residents, Dale Riggs and Tom Stankowski, were Brookshire's "right-hand" men in 2008 and helped Lee check the items off the list. They were able to fix things quickly and professionally and things are looking good.

Director Jayne Grant helped review and rewrite our Master Documents. This work will be continued in 2009 and look out for proxies in mid-2009 needed to update our Documents to conform to new laws and update other items. Director, Michael Chase worked with a local paint company to create a standard Architectural paint chart for Brookshire residents and is the chairman of the Architectural Review Committee for Brookshire. The paint chart can be found at the clubhouse. There will be some adjustments in 2009 to make it easier for our residents to obtain the paint, so keep an eye out. Director, Jeff Key, volunteered to lead the clean-up efforts on Southwell Drive and helped fund-raise for the new spring-toys in the playground area. Director, Glenn Barger was instrumental in beginning the audit and budget analysis in late 2007 and early 2008. Glenn also led the way to evaluate our clubhouse staffing and the different options available.

The social calendar was as busy as ever at Brookshire in 2008.

Social activities at the clubhouse included numerous pot-luck and theme or holiday dinner parties. Lee County Commissioner, Brian Bigelow and his assistant Janeen, attended the Oktoberfest Dinner in October. The Brookshire BBQ was a great success in August; children played in the slip and slide and the grown-ups ate, drank and played bingo. Wilma Tarencz, Barbara Hayes, Eileen Mazur and other volunteers have done a wonderful job keeping us busy – thank you! Weekly activities such as bridge, bingo, and poker are still weekly occurrences at the clubhouse and continue in 2009. The Brookshire Breeze was resurrected thanks to Jeanne Biery!! Thank you Jeanne for your volunteerism on the breeze and website updates. The Breeze would not be possible without it! There are numerous friends and neighbors who helped on additional projects throughout the year and gave their time, effort and support. Thanks to all! If you have time and want to help Brookshire on future projects, please let a board member or the clubhouse know. We will gladly call you when needed.

Answers to Brain Booster on p. 16

- A. a tongue
- B. a scale (or a key)
- C. teeth
- D. a bill
- E. an eye
- F. a mouth

The Florida Soft-Shell Turtle, Brookshire and Asia

By Jeff Key



**Florida soft-shelled turtle photographed
by Tom Donahue in his yard on St. Edmunds Loop**

It may seem strange to see the words Florida soft-shelled turtle, Brookshire and Asia in the same headline, but recent events have brought them together. The latest trends in China have led to higher rates of consumption for many goods including turtle meat. The subsequent collapse of populations of Asian turtles has resulted in a rise in demand for soft-shelled turtles in the United States in the last two years. Concerned conservationists have convinced the states of Texas and Florida to enact bans on taking of soft-shelled turtles during their nesting season from May through July. Florida also lowered its daily take from 20 per day for commercially licensed fishermen and 5 per day for a regular license to just one per day because of plummeting populations statewide. The increased demand in

China along with the tightened supply has sent prices up and set the stage for poaching. In December 2008, 7 lines were discovered on Brookshire's front two ponds by Daniels Parkway. The lines were baited with chicken on large hooks and tied to vegetation on the side of the pond. Two small soft-shelled turtles that had swallowed the hooks were discovered at the end of lines. The lines were cut by their mouths and they were released back into the ponds by the company that maintains the Brookshire shoreline. All 7 lines

were also removed. Florida Fish and Wildlife was consulted and reported the following: Florida soft-shelled turtles can be taken at a rate of one per day with a Florida fishing license from August through April. However, it is illegal to let baited hooks sit over night. Finally, Brookshire does not allow trespassing on its common ground waterfront by non-residents. Please report illegal or suspicious activity to the clubhouse at 768-0332.

Here is some info on the biology of the turtle and the above picture as reported by Brookshire resident, Tom Donahue. *Descendents of a primitive species that roamed the earth more than 200 million years ago, long before the dinosaurs, turtles have remained essentially unchanged for the past 150 million years. Turtles are recognized by everyone. The male of this species grows to eight inches long and the female can reach sixteen inches long and longer (so the one pictured is a big female). Soft-shell turtles have very long necks, sharp beaks and ugly tempers - their heads can reach a person holding them from behind. The largest soft-shell can weigh 35 pounds (we estimate the turtle above weighed 25 lbs). They prefer sandy or muddy-bottomed lakes, canals, and springs where they may be found floating in the water or buried in the bottom. Florida softshell turtles feed on snails, amphibians, crayfish, and sometimes small birds.*

Answer to **Brain Teaser** on p.16

Mom and daughter cross first.
Daughter gets out of boat, mom returns.
Mom gets out of boat, dad crosses.
Dad gets out and daughter goes back to get mom.



Brookshire 2008 Year in Review

Change

By Debbie Keller

While reviewing the activities of the past year in preparation for this report, the word change, came to mind several times. Although 2008 may have opened on a note of contention driven by past financial/budgetary questions coupled with differing points of view on how to manage the proposed commercial development of Tract K (Land Solutions Development), I believe it has ended in a much more positive manner in terms of the conduct during the board meetings and also trending up in terms of finances and the operating budget. Given the economic conditions and the stress that everyone is under at this time, this is a big turnaround from the past and a welcome change for Brookshire.

The discord at the end of 2007, in part, led to producing quite a few new owners who elected to run for the Board. Four new Directors and a number of new Board Officers were named after the Annual Membership Meeting last February. The newly organized Board evaluated the financial and operational state of affairs at that time. There was a negative equity balance, a healthy reserve balance and over \$30,000 in delinquent account balances. It was decided that the Board's efforts would be aimed at trying to reduce the overall costs of the Association's operations while maintaining the property and facilities, continuing to provide a high level of services and amenities, establishing a reasonable position relative to the proposed development of the Golf Driving Range with legal advice, and trying to maximize the incoming revenues while protecting the Association's interests given the increasing number of account delinquencies and foreclosures.

Needed Cost Reduction in 2008

- The opportunities for cost reductions were examined and it was determined that the costs associated with Sentry Management Company was an area of opportunity for savings. Numerous options were evaluated and Alliant Property Management was selected to replace Sentry Management on June 1, 2008. At the same time a review was conducted to determine the basic staffing requirements needed for effective clubhouse operations. The evaluation determined that office services, clubhouse supervision, minor maintenance and janitorial services could be obtained at a lower cost. With the support of Alliant Property Management and the reassignment of duties among the remaining staff, it was possible to eliminate the position of office manager and Brookshire said farewell to Clara Cain, our long time office manager. Brookshire welcomed Ronnie Seri and Joe, Ethel and Werner remained on the staff.

Contracts were also reviewed for potential cost savings. Some contract changes for 2008 included: landscape and irrigation maintenance, tree trimming, pest control, alarm system monitoring, air conditioning service and several electrical projects. We also tried to reduce costs by enlisting the help of Brookshire volunteers. 2008 saw many volunteers from the community come together to help maintain, repair or replace some of our amenities. Some of the volunteer projects included: repairing the fishing dock, sealing and painting both pool decks, replacing the water fountain in the clubhouse, installing two bouncy toys in the playground area, and cleaning-up along Southwell Drive.

Due to cost savings achieved since March 2008, we have been able to pay for all of the goods and services required from our operating account rather than borrow from the reserve accounts, as was necessary in 2006 and 2007. Brookshire was able to replace the pool umbrellas, re-strap and replace pool furniture, power wash the clubhouse, sidewalks and tennis courts, fix the steam room in the women's locker-room, install a new access control system, fix the lavatory building and roof at the small pool, install energy conserving lights in the clubhouse hallway leading to the exercise room, install ceiling fans in clubhouse offices, and numerous other upgrades, cleanings and repairs.

The long sought after access control system for the clubhouse and swimming pool gates is complete and is currently in operation. The basic system will pay for itself in a couple of years through payroll cost reductions and it will also help us enjoy and protect the Association's property. The system also allows for future expansion as needed as other requirements develop (cameras, gates, additional doors, etc). Landscape projects included major tree trimming efforts, removal of the bottlebrush trees in the clubhouse parking lot area and clean-up and removal of dead shrubs in the entryway traffic island. Replants were done in some of these areas with low maintenance palms, flowering shrubs and/or perennial plants.

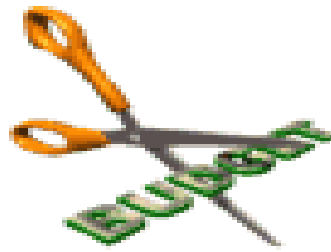
Financial Review - Operations in 2006 exceeded the budget by \$48,092, and in 2007 the excess operating cost over-budget was

[Continued on p.6](#)

Year in Review - continued from p.5

\$47,954, which necessitated borrowing from the reserve accounts to fund operations. The overruns of 2006 and 2007 were due in large part to a payroll surcharge by Sentry that was not discovered by the previous boards until late 2007. 2008 started with a carry-over deficit of \$32,530 but the 2008 Board of Directors quickly came together and created an action plan and list of priorities. Reviewing all budget items, monthly bills and priorities helped us to quickly gain ground and reduce the deficit to \$20,153 by the end of May 2008. The impact of the 2008 Board of Directors' efforts and focus on cost reduction has resulted in a significant improvement in our financial health and position. In the last seven months, we have progressed from an unfavorable negative equity balance to a positive balance of over \$25,000, for a net improvement in excess of \$50,000. Brookshire should be proud of the achievements and improvements made in 2008.

On the other side of the equation is the cash inflow which was aided by the Land Solutions payment of \$25,000, but hampered by a growing list of units past due and increasing foreclosures. The delinquent account total increased from just over \$30,000 at the end of 2007 to approximately \$70,000 at year-end 2008. Sixteen past-due accounts from 2007 totaling \$29,000 are still with us and now total \$47,000 in arrears. The current board has tried to be proactive and taken a prudent financial approach given the current economy and the real estate problems by allocating funds for Bad Debt in 2008 and added a line item in the budget for "Bad Debt" in 2009. We are being cautious and practical by not spending 100% of the annual assessments in the budget. Although we



hope all owners are able to pay their 2009 assessment of \$780 (that gives the association an approximate \$444,000 annual budget) we know this will most likely not happen in 2009, so our goal is to come in at least 5% under budget.

Conclusion - While the Board is exercising its fiduciary responsibility in providing for debts it cannot collect it recognizes that it has another duty to the entire membership in effectively dealing with members having assessments and associated collection costs due. We have committed and will continue to commit legal collection fees where appropriate to protect the Associations interests and attempt to maximize our returns from foreclosure proceedings. All of these collection efforts are impartial and are conducted through the management company and the Associations legal representatives. Legal fees associated with collections are ultimately the responsibility of the unit owner and goes onto their account for future payment.

The experiences of 2008 and economic predictions for the future were the basis for constructing the financial plan for 2009. In preparation of the 2009 Budget and Reserve Plan, the former 45 reserve accounts were consolidated into a more balanced structure of 20 accounts. The various assets were reviewed as to the condition, remaining life, and re-

placement cost and the existing reserve funds were allocated to the 20 accounts. The budget was then structured to provide sufficient funds to meet the statutory and financial requirements of the Reserve Accounts. Beyond the reserve requirements, the 2009 Budget should meet our operating needs while providing a slight reduction in the overall annual assessment. The annual amount reduction coupled with the elimination of the quarterly payment fee is equivalent to a 5% reduction to those paying on a quarterly basis in 2009 compared to 2008.

2008 has been quite a year for Brookshire - we have had ups and downs. Given our position in SW Florida and the economic times we face today, 2009 is sure to bring the same. Please be assured that the Board of Directors is doing all possible to help maintain a happy, healthy and safe community in 2009 - on a personal level as well as a financial perspective. The year really did see a turnaround in many different ways and we hope you can see it too. We hope you notice the efforts being put forth by your friends, neighbors, clubhouse staff and the volunteer board of directors. Brookshire is a great community and now, we as a community, are coming together and welcoming change. Brookshire is progressing nicely because everyone is working together on projects that help all of us.

7 candidates for 3 Board Positions !!!

Editorial by Jeanne Biery



Brookshire is extremely lucky to have an unprecedented number of candidates for the board this year.

All owners were recently mailed information sheets with the proxy and ballot forms to vote for the candidate of your choice.

You should read these carefully before casting your ballot.

If you are unfamiliar with these candidates ask your friends and neighbors if they know them. This is not a personality contest but one in which qualifications are important.

Our board will make decisions which will affect all of us during the coming years and therefore we should choose those candidates who are willing to work diligently on our behalf.

Our current board has been lauded for the actions that they have taken and we want that to continue in the future.

Choose carefully and wisely it is your future at Brookshire that is at stake.

In conclusion, let's all make a resolution to attend all meetings of the board and especially don't forget the annual meeting at **Safe Harbor Community church on February 24th at 7pm.**

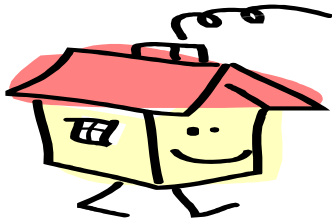
SEE YOU THERE !!

The Brookshire Breeze is published by resident volunteers under auspice of the Association's Master Board. Sincere effort is made to insure that information contained in this publication is accurate. Should you find significant errors of fact, please notify the Clubhouse Office ASAP or your editor so that we can publish a correction in the next edition.

Brookshire Management Association

Alliant Property Management LLC

6719 Winkler Road Suite 206
Fort Myers FL 33919



CLUB HOUSE HOURS

6 AM—10:00 PM M-F
8AM-10PM Sat—Sun
Office PHONE 768-0332

www.brookshireclub.com

Please check our website often. If you have any suggestions for information added to it please feel free to email me at jeannebiery@comcast.net.

Jeff Key is training me to keep the website updated and I'm hoping that we can keep it current and also have it reflect the views, opinions and voice of our community.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Jeanne Biery



YOU ARE BEING WATCHED



REPRINTED FROM A 2001 **BROOKSHIRE BREEZE**
BY ETHEL SAVICKAS

Watched ?? By **whom??** By your neighbors!!! Who is being watched? **DOG OWNERS THAT DO NOT PICK UP THEIR PET'S EXCRETA, FECES, OR WHATEVER ELSE YOU CHOOSE TO CALL IT.** It is left on our sidewalks, lawns, and streets of our community. Not only are you, the delinquent dog owners, being watched, you are only a phone call away from the Lee County Animal Control Division which can have a representative at your door. There is a Lee County Ordinance #88-49, which specifically spells out that:

“A: It is unlawful for any owner or his agent to fail to control his animals, or to allow them to become a nuisance. For purposes of this ordinance "nuisance" shall mean: to cause, permit or allow an animal to defecate or urinate upon the sidewalk of any public street or on the property of another or in a public park or beach. The owner of every animal shall be responsible for the removal of any excreta deposited by his animal on public walks, recreation areas or private property or any other place where such excreta deposits may cause a nuisance injurious to the public health AS DEFINED IN FLORIDA STATUTE CHAPTER 386". -

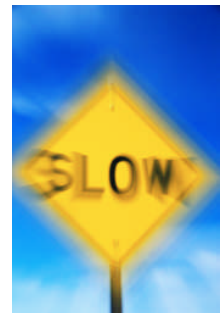
Angry residents are annoyed and irate by the excreta/feces deposited on the lawns and sidewalks of the community by some dogs. (APPRECIATION MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED TO THOSE PET OWNERS WHO CONSCIENTIOUSLY DO CLEAN UP AFTER THEIR PETS.) However, to those inconsiderate few who do not, **FOREWARNED YOU ARE BE BEING WATCHED...** As one resident stated, "may they, not I or my children, be the ones who step into their own pets' doo-dory!!!!

Speed Limits on Brookshire Streets

By Michael Chase



Please watch your speed limit on our streets. We have had complaints that “There are many cars that fly up and down Whitehaven Lane and it is very scary when you’re out walking your dog, bicycling or just going out for a walk especially at night.” Those out walking at night should be cautious... carry a flashlight and do not wear dark clothing.



Brookshire Breeze Editor



As the current editor I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself . My name is Jeanne Biery and I live at 6900 ST. Edmunds Loop. My telephone number is 849-1949 and my email is

jeannebiery@comcast.net. Please feel free to email, call or drop off any information about activities here in our community. You may also email to:

emailbrookshire@gmail.com

New Additions to the Playground!!

By Jeff Key

In June of 2007, previous president of the board, Charles Bonavia, emailed suggesting adding spring toys to the playground. Brookshire resident, Joe Mahler, took the initiative to start fundraising and initially collected around \$300. About \$900 was needed for two toys, so additional funds were raised with the goal finally reached one year later. Two spring toys have now been added to the Brookshire playground behind

the clubhouse. Wally the Whale and Freddy the Frog were installed December 14 & 18 thanks to contributions from the community (\$520.00) and from reserve funding (\$380.00). Contributing money to the project were: Joe Mahler, Charles Bonavia, Clara Cain, Jack Foley, Jeff Key, Jerry French, the Racquetball Group, and anonymous community members at the town hall meeting on 6/10/2008. Installation was completed by Rick Burrier, Vince Hayes, Charles

Bonavia, Dale Riggs and Jeff Key. Special thanks to Joe Mahler and Charlie Bonavia for organizing this effort from the outset. Each toy is mounted on around 400 pounds of concrete in a hole measuring 3 feet deep and 1.5 feet wide. Please bring your kids for a visit. For some discussion on organized play dates, come to the Brookshire Community Forum at

<http://brookshireclub.com/forum/>.

Parents & Grandparents - spread the word!!



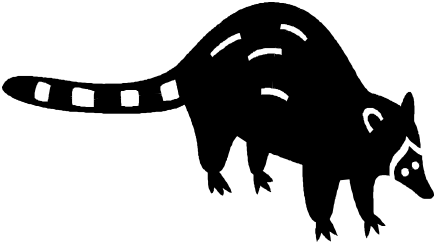
Workers in the above picture are: **Dale Riggs, Charlie Bonavia, Vince Hayes, Rick Burrier, Jeff Key**

Children enjoying the new additions:

Top picture is **Logan Key** and the lower picture is **Skylar Key**



Brookshire Bits and Pieces



Raccoons

Raccoons love open trash containers or trash bags and quickly learn to dig out food spreading trash on yours and your neighbor's lawn. Once they start raiding your trash it's hard to discourage them.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR !!!!
KEEP TIGHT LIDS ON ALL
OUTDOOR TRASH CANS
PLEASE !



Pancakes

A student had pancakes this week and it almost became fatal. His Mom (registered nurse) made him pancakes, dropped him off at school and headed to play tennis. She never takes her cell phone on the court but did this time and her son called to say he was having trouble breathing. She told him to go to the nurse immediately and proceeded to call the school and alert the nurse. The nurse called the paramedics and they were there in 3 minutes and worked on the boy all the way to the hospital. He came so close to dying.

Evidently this is more common than I ever knew. Check the expiration dates on packages like pancakes and cake mixes that have yeast which over time develop spores. Apparently, the

mold that forms in old mixes can be toxic! Throw away ALL OUTDATED pancake mix, Bisquick, brownie mixes etc you have in your home. This is not a hoax. You can check this website <http://www.snopes.com/medical/toxins/pancake.asp> More info at <http://www.webmd.com/allergies/guide/mold-allergy> P. S. You might want to tell this to your children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces and anyone else who keeps these types of mixes in the cupboard. (Letter copied from the internet)



Tip For clubhouse users

No need to fumble thru your wallet or purse to find your key card. Just swipe your wallet or thin purse by the sensor on the wall near the office, or pool and the gate will unlock. Feedback is showing most people are happy with the increased security and ease of operation the new key card entry system is providing.

(Tom Donohue—St. Edmunds Loop)



Did you know ??

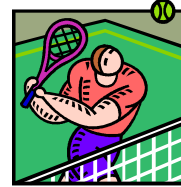
The Brookshire staff recently received new gray tee shirts? (submitted by Lee Redman)

ALSO

We have a new employee on our Brookshire staff. His name is Rick Burrier and he is a retired teacher and Federal

Park Ranger. Rick has worked summers at Yellowstone! Welcome Rick.

(submitted by Tom Donohue)



Tennis Court Lights

All tennis court lights have recently been replaced. There are now 36-1000 watt sport lights and 36 ballasts that make up the lighting system. This work was overdue and badly needed to keep our courts usable in the evening hours. This work will give us a dependable system for many years to come.

St. Patrick's Party

March 14th at the clubhouse..watch for more info regarding this great party

Sharing is Caring !

We can all keep in tune with what's happening in our neighborhoods by sharing what we know with others. You can do this in several ways. Send your info to Tom Donohue at seazeus@embarqmail.com **or** jeannebiery@comcast.net **or** emailbrookshire@gmail.com

Vandalism and Damage by Children

By Jeff Key, with contributions by Michael Chase, and Eileen Mazur



Although we are a relatively peaceful neighborhood by many standards, we have had many ongoing reports through the years of vandalism, inappropriate behavior and theft in Brookshire, some of which can be attributed to our community children. Common ground facilities have been repeatedly tampered with or damaged and single family home mailboxes have been targeted for removal of mail or even destruction of the box itself. Accounts of screamed profanity in the streets, running through backyards at night, knocking on windows and even breaking and entering have occurred in the recent past. Instances of throwing bottles on the street, breaking tree branches and riding skate boards on the pool decks, shuffleboard, tennis and basketball courts have recently been observed in which the children were reprimanded in some cases and others not (**Reminder to all - no skateboarding, roller skates, scooters, etc. on any Brookshire property or courts**). Additionally, several bicycles have been stolen. Regarding these events

and their connection to our children or those of our neighbors, what can we do as a community to intervene? Parental supervision is the first requirement. **Parents should understand they will be responsible for damages inflicted by their children.** It is imperative that we know where our children are, what they are doing and who their friends are. Of course there are some parents that are raising their children alone or some homes in which both parents work resulting in unsupervised time for their children. Perhaps in these circumstances, parents can network and trade supervised time with other neighborhood families. This brings us to a second level of child supervision - the strength of our neighborhood bond. Numerous studies show a well connected neighborhood suffers less juvenile delinquency. In getting to know your neighbors, a better sense of community emerges which is good for us and good for our kids. There is precedent as well in providing activities and facilities in which our children



can participate. In taking the time to attend board meetings or community social events, visiting our web site at www.brookshireclub.com, and reading or contributing to the Breeze, you can be role models to our resident children and possibly deterrents to potential problems. I invite you to join our new community forum (www.brookshireclub.com/forum) in discussing ideas for family events, reporting vandalism and promoting interconnection in our neighborhood through augmented communication.



Jeff Key is a Brookshire resident, director of the board and father of two boys, ages 5 and 8.

Michael Chase and Eileen Mazur are also Brookshire residents and directors of the board

DON'T FORGET, WHEN USING THE SERVICES OF OUR ADVERTISERS TO INFORM THEM THAT YOU SAW THEIR AD IN THE BROOKSHIRE "BREEZE" NEWSLETTER !!!!!



Transformations Landscape Services

239-898-0912

www.transformationsls.com

Transformations Landscape Services is happy to be the Landscaper for Brookshire Bath and Tennis Club. We would like to extend our quality services, great customer service and low prices to Homeowners in Brookshire

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Everything you Need to Know about Our Services

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- * Weeding
- * Debris Removal
- * Trimming
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- * Turf weed control
- * Plant-bed weed control
- * Turf, Tree and Shrub Fertilizer
- * Turf pest control
- * Shrub Pest Control

Brookshire Residents: \$65/month

If pest, weed and additional turf management is not necessary, please call for lower rate

Additional services and references available upon request
Please call Transformations Landscape Services at 239-898-0912 for more information and to begin your home's transformation

Bobcat Attack on Heather Ridge Loop

By Debbie Keller

Two muscovy ducks were killed by a bobcat along the lake at Heather Ridge Loop.

A resident witnessed the attack. The bobcat was medium sized (3 feet long and approximately 20 lbs) and swiped his paws to attack and catch the two ducks. Please be aware of your surroundings at all times especially when walking your small dogs. Information regarding Bobcats from the internet

The bobcat is the smallest member of the lynx group, weighing from 15-30 pounds with a body length of 2-4 feet, depending on its location. Its name was probably derived from its 6" tail which is tipped white, or *bobbed* white. The bobcat's thick fur is a reddish-brown to brownish-gray with small dark spots. On its face the bobcat has a tuft of facial fur around the cheek area and a tuft of hair on the ear's tips which helps the bobcat hear sensitive vibrations. The bobcat has long legs and runs in excess of 15mph, and can leap over 12 feet, which helps it catch its prey.

The bobcat like all lynx has a great liking for rabbit. However, the bobcat will commonly switch prey when its preferred source of food is unavailable. Males will hunt larger prey such as deer in the winter months when other prey is scarce. Bobcats also prey on other small mammals, such as squirrels and chipmunk, rodents and birds. Generally they hunt both by night and day, although there is **evidence to suggest that most hunting takes place at dawn and dusk**, corresponding to peak periods of activity of the hare and rabbit, their main prey species. **Bobcats tend to be more**

active during daylight hours during the winter months.

In behaviour, the bobcat is less secretive than its canadian relative and is found in a broad range of habitats from the Canadian/USA border down through to Mexico. Bobcats are found in **swamp areas in and around Florida**. Despite its smaller size, the bobcat is also thought to be more aggressive than the lynx.

Additional info on bobcats: by Jeff Key

I work across the street at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve and frequently see bobcat tracks and scat. It is therefore not surprising to hear about this attack, especially on the slow moving Muscovy ducks which, although wild, are escapees from domestication. Bobcats live in the woods but extend their range to the edges of human development throughout the country. People in Sanibel and Captiva report them on a regular basis in their backyards.

This particular cat, having successfully killed two ducks, will possibly make Brookshire part of its territory and could return. Small dogs, housecats, snakes, rodents and more slow moving Muscovy ducks are potential prey although most bobcats are very fearful of humans and will avoid contact.

Advice for your household and yard:

- Cut excess vegetation that might otherwise provide cover
- Do not feed Muscovy ducks which might attract bobcats
- Do not feed the bobcats



Picture of a bobcat taken by Jeff Key in Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. He used a remote wildlife camera with a motion sensor to get a picture this close. The camera was strapped to a tree and left for five days in an area where he had found wildlife tracks. He did this in 20 locations over 3 months and produced over 100 pictures of various wildlife in a project for Lee County Parks and Recreation

- Do not leave pet food or water outdoors
- Vaccinate pets
- Keep pets indoors

Bobcat attacks on humans are extremely rare but are possible. In case of a bobcat encounter, keep as much distance between you and the animal as possible:

- Immediately protect children and pets
- Back away from the bobcat slowly and deliberately
- Avoid running away because that could trigger a pursuit response
- If possible, spray the animal with water

When possible make a lot of noise (banging pans, for instance)

For more info, go to <http://www.desertusa.com/april96/bobcat-control.html>



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**RESIDENTS MAY CONTACT
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Residents can email if they have a concern, issue, praise, complaint, etc. to :
emailbrookshire@gmail.com

There is a also a mailbox for each director in the clubhouse office. Residents may leave signed notes for a particular director in his/her box. These boxes are checked regularly.

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Mexican Petunia

By Tom Donohue



With spring coming soon many of us will be visiting the home store green houses looking for new plantings. One plant will catch your eye both by color, and price.

The **Mexican petunia dazzles with blue flowers.** This one in-

nocent plant can grow and grow and if left unattended from year to year will swallow up your whole garden. I discovered this years ago when Jeff Key alerted me to the plants aggressive behavior. He said it's an invasive plant. I dug out a corner garden where the 6 inch diameter plant soon became the whole garden. I used an axe to cut through the tangle of roots. I came back days later and removed all the little pieces of root. Anyway, I got sick & went to the hospital and was not able to look in on the garden for 6 months. The devil had done

its work and the Mexican petunia was back in all its glory. This year I had a yard crew of able bodied young men dig the monster out of my garden. I then had a licensed herbicide / poison company come in and spray the tiny left over pieces before covering it all with 3 inches of mulch.

I still don't know if I will win the battle with the Mexican Petunia, only time will tell. So my advice to you is to be careful when selecting what seems to be a pretty and inexpensive flower for your garden.

Brookshire Board Remains at 9 Directors

By Jeff Key

The Brookshire Board of Directors discussed downsizing from nine directors in November and early December, 2008. In consulting legal opinion, it was found the board has the authority to do so within the guidelines of the documents. Various arguments were presented for five, seven and nine directors.

Changing to seven members was the predominate consideration and was chiefly supported in that the board remained efficient and functional while two positions had been open for the past five months. Likewise, no nominations were made at this time by any directors. Two residents commented that a seven member board would be sufficient.

A separate case for a five member board was made in two points: 1) the seats would be more competitive thereby resulting in more highly qualified owners to run the business of the Brookshire HOA and 2) management difficul-



ties inherent in a larger board.

The argument for remaining a nine member board was presented in three points: 1) in a volunteer setting, more is always better to fully reach the full potential of human resources.

2) There were residents willing to be nominated. 3) If present nominations were not acceptable to the board, a proper canvassing of the community should be made before downsizing. Several residents then

spoke in favor of maintaining the board size.

The board made no vote on lowering its number and instead nominated two owners. On December 6, 2008, the Brookshire Board of Directors approved nomination of Eileen Mazur and Bob Hannah to two vacant seats filling the 9 positions. Eileen will serve until 2010 and Bob will serve until 2009. We welcome them to the current board and thank them in advance for their service!!

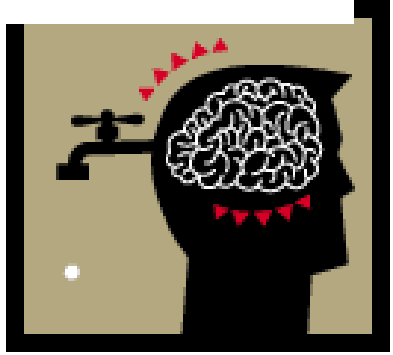
Additionally, due to increased and varied community opinion at the meetings and through emails on this subject, two additional consequences of this debate have occurred. It was suggested at the December 6 meeting, to create a Brookshire community internet forum (explained in another column in this issue of the Breeze) and to include board minutes on the web site, both of which have now been accomplished.

Brain Games

Valentine Word Search

Q Y P G S F D T B C R T A V N E R K V D
 S V P R S R L I A G N B D N O N E X P T
 P Q I O O S E N P E T Y M M I S V B Z V
 K O H W M P D W M U R U I N Y A E J B F
 N E S J K L O I O L C T R W D D R V Q H
 E E N G E S T S E L D Q E O V S O P E R
 R K O S I N Q W A S F T R S E H F N A T
 Y N I D E R E Y W L C E E S P R M C L E
 J N T S N J L E Z C Z T O R P I F J W Y
 E N A H I E E F M O A R O R A S K E U G
 M C L G E T I N R L F R I E N D S H I P
 A O E C H A W R O I Z K Y S G R D E A R
 L H R E X A R C F E E V E T L I C P P S
 F C A C C U O T M Y D N L A O B F L N D
 J R F B P H B X S Q O V D U V E O T D B
 T Q F L C W M J E F U B N R E V N D P N
 F E B R U A R Y D N A C K A R O W G C H
 N R O M A N C E O P R X D N S L B C S Y
 G N I L R A D J H W D X U T I C F M T W

ADMIRER
ADORE
AFFECTION
BOYFRIEND
CANDLES
CANDY
CHOCOLATES
CUPID
DARLING
DEAR
FEBRUARY
FLAME
ROSES
SENTIMENT
FLOWERS
FOREVER
FRIENDSHIP
GIFT
GIRLFRIEND
HEARTS
JEWELRY
LOVEBIRDS
LOVERS
PROPOSAL
RELATIONSHIP
RESTAURANT
ROMANCE
SWEETHEART



**Don't suffer
from Brain
Drain.....
Do puzzles
regularly !!**

Brain Teaser (answer on p.4)

John, his wife and their daughter wish to cross a river.
 The row boat can only hold 100 kilos.
 John weighs 80 kilos.
 His wife and daughter weigh 40 kilos each.
Question: How do all three cross the river?

BRAIN BOOSTER

What is the one thing shared by all three items in the same group?

- A** a cow
a shoe
a baby
- B** a doctor's office
a post office
music
- C** a zipper
a shark
a comb
- D** restaurant goer
a bird
the Senate
- E** a potato
a hurri-
cane
a target
- F** a river
a person
a cave

Quote of the Day

The American, by nature, is optimistic. He is experimental, an inventor and a builder who builds best when called upon to build greatly.....

John F. Kennedy (1917 - 1963)

Answer's are on page 3