



BROOKSHIRE BREEZE

www.brookshireclub.com

Nov. 2011—Dec. 2011



Next Meetings of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, November 29, 2011
Tuesday, December 27, 2011
7:00 P.M. at the Clubhouse

Treasurer's Report

Vince Hayes

It has been a relatively normal period since the August Breeze update on the Association's financial status. In the three month interval since the end of June through the last monthly financial statement covering September, the Operating funds decreased \$28,067 to \$174,702, and the Reserves increased \$28,249 to \$247,561. The total inflows from third quarter assessments, collections of past due accounts, interest and miscellaneous income was \$182 more than total expenditures for the quarter.

In the last report I commented that the Association's Net Equity was a measure of financial strength, and went on to note that expenditures from Reserves for capital type expenditures reduced the Reserve cash balance, as well as, the Net Equity balance. During the quarter there were approximately \$14,000 of expenditures for capital improvements,

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CLUB HOUSE HOURS

5:30 AM—10:00 PM

Except for Holidays

OFFICE PHONE 768-0332

Holiday Schedule

***Clubhouse will be closed
on Thanksgiving &
Christmas, the pools will
be open***

Alliant Property Management LLC

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REMINDER

Residents can email if they have a concern, issue, praise, complaint, etc. to:

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Treasurer's Report

continued from page one

with a reduction of \$3,800 in Net Equity. In the accounting system for a "for profit" business the Net Equity would have increased about \$10,200 instead of contracting \$3,800. For a Home Owner Association like us, it represents a period of increasing financial strength.

Having said that, I must move on to a topic which is starting to take on some aspects of ancient history, but now is known as part of the "New Normal". The status of the Association's delinquent account balances varies slightly from month to month, but remains in the vicinity of \$100,000. As some long standing foreclosures/bankruptcy cases are resolved another new one seems to take their place on the path to the court house. We are compelled to expend Association funds every month for legal services to protect our ability to recover on these past due accounts when cases are resolved. Knowing that full recoveries on all the delinquent accounts is not possible the Association has been placing funds in a Bad Debt account for the past three years. The Board will continue to make provisions of \$2,000 per month in the 2012 Budget, in order to meet the formula recommended by our CPA auditor for this contingency.

HOW TO BUY USA

Ben Stewart

This might be of interest to the residents of Brookshire. With all the food and pet products now coming from China, it is best to make sure you read labels at the grocery store. Many products no longer show where they were made. Instead they only show where the distributor is located. It is important to read the bar code to track its origin. How to read Bar Codes interesting! This may be useful to know when grocery shopping, if it's a concern to you. GREAT WAY TO "BUY USA & CANADA" AND NOT FROM CHINA!!

The whole world is concerned about China-made "black hearted goods". Can you differentiate which one is made in Taiwan or China ?

If the first 3 digits of the barcode are 690 691 or 692, the product is MADE IN CHINA. 471 is made in Taiwan. We have the right to know where products are made even if the government and related departments would prefer otherwise. Nowadays, Chinese businessmen know that many consumers do not want products "MADE IN CHINA". However, you may now refer to the barcode - remember if the first 3 digits are:

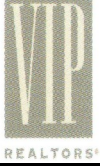
690-692	MADE IN CHINA
00 - 09	USA & CANADA
30 - 37	FRANCE
40 - 44	GERMANY
471	TAIWAN
49	JAPAN
50	UK



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Jim has lived in

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In Memory of Charlotte Schwartz Age 82 June 26, 1929 - September 5, 2011

Charlotte was a long time resident of Brookshire Village 3 where she served many years as president and vice president. She was an accomplished author of dozens of dog training books. Her works are featured on Amazon and E-bay as well as at Coral Veterinary Clinic where she taught dog training. Charlotte was also the driving force for the placement of the memorial behind the clubhouse dedicated to the children that lost their lives in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. She will be remembered as one of the original residents of Brookshire that wasn't afraid to volunteer and keep a watchful eye on the neighborhood.



Brookshire Updates

Lee Redmond

The last phase of the planting programs for 2011 has been completed. This includes pruning of 22 oak trees and planting 54 arboricolas along the fence line at the golf driving range. There have been 5 red cedar trees removed that were blocking the stop sign at Southwell and Brookshire Lake Blvd. There have been 10 post lights with sensors installed on the two islands on Brookshire Lake Blvd. at the entrance to Brookshire. Also 7 post lights with sensors have been installed at the quiet pool. The old ones, that are buried in the fence line will be removed. New signs have been posted at the large pool and in the exercise room. These signs will reflect the changes that have been approved in the rules and regulations.

DIXIELAND MUSIC

River Weekly News

(Editors note: The following article was posted in the River Weekly News from Fort Myers on October 28, 2011 about Brookshire resident Gerry French)

If you have heard the Dixieland Strollers and would like to have the band stop in front of your establishment on the nights they perform this season, become a Dixieland Stroller supporter.

Gerry French started the band in Fort Myers in the 1980's and had played Friday nights for the last 15 years, thanks to the funding by Don Paight, director of the Downtown Redevelopment Agency. Paight was quick to agree that having strolling Dixieland music every Friday night for all the merchants and their patrons (at no cost to the merchants) was the best way to keep the River District growing (this was in 1996). Hence the Dixie Strollers were born, which gave birth to the first New Orleans ambiance in

downtown Fort Myers.

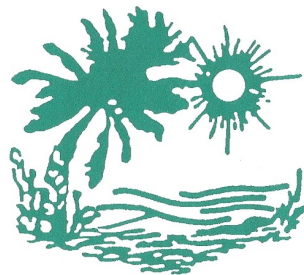
From 2008 to 2009, the Downtown Redevelopment Association lost all funding relating to music and entertainment. The shift of funds meant there was no money available to fund the Dixie Strollers. Both Paight and French have searched for two years for someone to pick up the \$200 tab each Friday without success. French, with personal help from The French Connection, Spirits of Bacchus and the Florida Repertory Theatre, has managed to keep the Dixieland Band strolling one Friday night per month. At the start of this season, once again French found himself without any financial support. To cope, he has launched a unique Dixieland supporter program called Let's Bring the Ambiance of Dixieland Music Back to the Streets of Fort Myers. French believes it would be easier to

find enough merchants for a small minimum fee of \$25 rather than trying to find one sponsor to pay the entire fee. The band needs a minimum base pay of \$200 for each Friday they play. To cover this cost, French needs to have eight merchants where the band will stop and play a minimum of 10 to 15 minutes. At the current time, the band has three stops signed up and one non-paying stop at the Florida Repertory Theater. Paight has supported French's idea by forwarding an agreement form which explains the program to his downtown list of merchants. As an afterthought French has also made it possible for merchants who don't want the band to stop at their establishment but want to support the overall ambiance the band creates by playing downtown. To sign up as a Band Supporter contact Gerry French at 768-5055 or email gwfrench@gmail.com.



Dixieland Strollers in 2010. Left to right: Jim Steele, Bob Anderson, Al Antonini and Gerry French; not pictured,

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Wild Pigs in Brookshire

Jeff Key

Called wild pigs, wild boar, wild hogs, razorbacks or feral pigs, they are all one in the same and recently have made their presence in Brookshire. In September, several wild pigs were sighted on Southwell Drive along the edge of the driving range. They were feeding on acorns from the line of live oaks and overturning the grass while rooting for grubs. Some other rooted areas turned up overnight behind the condos of Brookshire Village 1 & 2 along the berm of Six Mile Cypress Parkway. Reportedly, the driving range staff employed an archer to take some of the pigs and otherwise chased the pigs away with golf carts. Brookshire hired a trapper who placed a trap with a rope triggered sliding door for live capture close to the intersection of Southwell and Whitehaven. No pigs have been caught nor seen since; however their presence should not come as a surprise based on our proximity to Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve, a county park surrounded by new developments and a shrinking budget. To explain,

some history and background is helpful. Pigs were introduced to Florida in 1539 by Hernando De Soto as a means to sustainably feed Spanish soldiers on expedition. Sows can begin reproducing at less than one year of age, can produce up to two litters per year of 6-12 piglets, and can double their population in just a few months. Starting with Columbus, the Spanish were disheartened with the availability of their preferred foods in the new world as they explored the Caribbean. The practice of bringing pigs from Spain began on Columbus's second expedition in 1493 with pig releases on several islands including Cuba. Other introductions in New Mexico and Virginia by the Spanish and English led to a wild population that still thrives today across the southeastern United States and the Caribbean. Only large cats like the Texas puma and Florida panther prey on the pigs, however the predator populations are not large enough to control the vast pig population. Adult pigs can attain a weight of up to 450 pounds and the males can defend themselves with

large upper and lower tusks of up to 8 inches. Locally, our pig population had a large territory in which to reside to our east where much of the land between the slough and I-75 remained undeveloped. That changed in the last 5 years with the completion of the Paseo, Renaissance and Reflection Isles developments squeezing a large pig population into the last remaining space at the slough. The county started a trapping program and captured over 700 pigs at the park in 2007 alone. However, budget cuts in the last few years have impacted the program causing the population to rise again. Seasonal high water in September and October forces the pigs out onto the edges of the slough with the inevitable spill over occasionally into Brookshire and other surrounding communities. Because of the dangers of possible swine flu, wildlife encounters and the damage to lawns, the pigs will be trapped for slaughter. If you see pigs in the neighborhood, please report their presence and location to staff at the clubhouse.



This picture was taken by Jeff Key at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve in 2005 using a remote motion censored camera as part of an environmental wildlife survey. The coloring in the fur indicates a hybrid mixture of European wild boar and feral domesticated pig which is a standard feature in our regional population.

The Breeze in full color delivered to your inbox

To request each edition of the Breeze via email and in full COLOR, send an email to your editor:

jeffgkey@comcast.net

Contribute to the Brookshire Breeze

Please feel free to email, call or drop off any information about activities here in our community at the clubhouse. You may also email to:

emailbrookshire@gmail.com

What's New with Racquetball at Brookshire?

Gerry French

For all "new" Brookshire residents the following may interest you. If you are already a racquetball player or would like to learn how to play and eventually play well enough to get a "handicap rating" and play in the organized RB Underground program., then please read on!

The **Racquetball Underground program** supervised and run by Gerry French three days a week is unique in many ways.

First, it makes it possible for Brookshire residents who play RB to come to the clubhouse at specific times on Tuesday and Thursdays @ 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays @ 8:30 a.m. and know they will be able to play. No calls, no finding a partner, simply COME through the clubhouse door and you will be sure to play.

Second, we play only doubles. We play all games to 11 win by one.



PICKLEBALL ANYONE?

The fast game of Pickleball is played outside in the tennis courts at Brookshire each Friday evening from 6-8 p.m. Those not familiar with play can go to pickleball.com for rules and strategy. It's becoming widely popular in this area. Beginners are welcome!

Third, the program uses a "player handicap" system like in golf, which forces the better players to give points to the weaker players. We do this by totaling the assigned handicaps of the players on each team and the team with the highest number must give the team with the lower handicap total the difference however no more than 5 points in an 11 point game and the right to serve first. Results?? **Very competitive racquetball!!!!**

Fourth, you must have a **current Underground Handicap** rating in order to play. Gerry assigns and updates all handicap ratings that range from an 8 to as high as a 14. To get a handicap rating, you have to **convince Gerry** first that you know how to play the game. You also must **convince Gerry** that you know the playing rules of

Doubles RB including all the **many safety rules** to insure with 4 players on the court **you will not be hit by a ball or hit some player with a ball or your racquet**. Once Gerry is convinced, he will **assign you a handicap** and you are then eligible and free to play any of the days Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays in the Underground.

Fifth, what do you do if you are a beginner and **don't play well enough to get a Handicap rating????** Simply take lessons (free) from Gerry and he will work out a schedule with you and find you someone to play with until you are good enough. So come on down and learn how to play and ultimately use this **great amenity** of having 2 RB courts. It is one form of exercise that once you learn to play it is no longer exercise but FUN!!!!

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Social Committee Update

Barbara Hayes

To kick start the Fall party series the October Pot-Luck Dinner was held on the 21st. The large group attending enjoyed a great selection of foods from appetizers through desserts.

The next scheduled event was held on November 11th at 5:30 PM, when we celebrated a late Octoberfest. The Committee decided on the later date in order to have our favorite musician play for everyone's enjoyment. On Saturday, December 10th, we are planning a Christmas Season cocktail party starting at 6 PM. The annual luncheon for the combined aerobics and shuffleboard groups will be held on Thursday, December 15th at 12:30 PM. Members of the groups are asked to bring a \$10 gift if they wish to participate in the gift exchange. There will be a nominal charge for the luncheon.

Another first time social event—On Saturday, December 31st, starting at 8:30 PM, a New Year's Eve Celebration will run until 12:30 AM. This clubhouse party will be open to all Brookshire residents. Hopefully this can become an annual event.

Looking forward to the New Year, a series of parties are in the planning stage for each month. In late January there will be a catered Italian dinner, in February there will be a Valentine's cocktail party, March will have the traditional St. Patrick's Day dinner party and a So-long Snowbirds cocktail party in April. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the clubhouse several weeks prior to all social events.

Where applicable (such as pot luck dinners) those signing to attend will be asked to indicate on the sheet whether they will be bringing an appetizer, main dish, dessert, etc. All social events are B.Y.O.B. of choice. The Committee needs the co-operation of all those signing to attend these events, so that they can make the proper table arrangements and secure appropriate amounts of food. Sign on as early as possible and let us know if you are unable to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you at some of these events.

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More Brookshire Updates

Lee Redmond

The large pool deck has been painted by volunteers Vince, Lee and Jim Smith and all pool chairs have been repaired and pressure washed. The three diffusers on pond 5 have been replaced.

The clubhouse air conditioner has been replaced with a new 3 ton capacity Rheem unit. The condenser has been removed from the front of the clubhouse and relocated to the east side of the building. The spa has had a new commercial blower installed. We had a new safety exit door installed in the exercise room. This will eliminate a problem with the clubhouse security system.



Dinni Seri
Licensed Agent

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Breeze - Ad Rates

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Vince Hayes	Treasurer	2012
Jayne Grant	Secretary	2013
Jeff Key	Director	2012
Maria Lazzano	Director	2014
Jim Likus	Director	2014
Eileen Shiemke	Director	2013
Ben Stewart	Director	2013

RESIDENTS MAY CONTACT

MEMBERS OF THE MASTER BOARD

Residents can email if they have a concern, issue, praise, complaint, etc. to :

emailbrookshire@gmail.com

There is 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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