

The

Canopy



Covering Our Community

Banners Salute Our Graduates & Front Line Residents



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeffrey A. Levinson, *President*
The Trails HOA

Well, we are almost past the Pandemic. Thanks to our Governor Ron DeSantis for easing restrictions and phasing the state into opening up for business. Our pool has been opened with limited attendance, per State Guidelines being enforced, and we hope all restrictions will

soon be lifted.

I want to take this opportunity to thank, Helen Medved, who has resigned from the HOA board due to health concerns. Helen, stepped up and joined the board when asked, and I and the

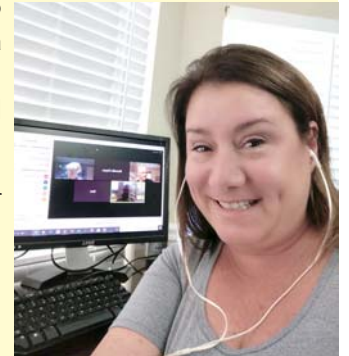
board so appreciated her contributing to our board for the last few years. We will miss Helen on the board and thank her again for her service to our community.

I also want to thank our manager, Brandie Hayes, who during the State shut down and restrictions imposed, was very proactive. Brandie found ways for *The Trails* to continue to have virtual meetings via zoom calling, and though there was a learning curve she enabled the board to continue to hold monthly meetings.

Please consider joining one of our committees that serve our community.

Looking forward to the months ahead.

Thank you.



BRANCHES OF OUR CANOPY

DOLLARS & SENSE

Budgeting & Reserves

Amy Rugg Treasurer, & Brandie Hayes LCAM

With the pandemic and the social climate distracting the country, it seems nearly impossible that we are in month seven of 2020. With barely five months of the year left, it will be 2021 before we know it. July brings with it a new set of responsibilities for the onsite manager and Treasurer of the association.

Board members and management sometimes hear from HOA members that they "don't know what their dues pay for". So, the Newspaper Committee thought it might be helpful to present the budgeting and reserve process. This article is published in hopes of helping those who don't read or understand the budget to garner insight from this side of the calculator. Amy Rugg your Treasurer, and Brandie Hayes your property manager could not agree more with the Committee's request.

The process for management starts with preliminary budget inquiries now that we have completed the second quarter of the year. Vendors are being contacted for cost projections and possible increases over the next 12-18 months. Contracts are being reviewed, and those that are expiring will be rebid. Add to the workload the hurricane storm season and it can make for a challenging budget process. Regardless of what distractions pop up, the budget process is vital to the financial health of the community.

After preliminary cost data is received, management proposes the first set of budget numbers to the association Treasurer. These budget estimates are based on the known expenses paid in the last 6 months. From those numbers, management calculates averages for the remainder of the fiscal year. The



manager considers historic costs of each line item of the general ledger accounts, including any income anticipated from the quarterly assessments, the R.V. storage lot fees, late fees and clubhouse rental fees as income streams that offset the assessment each year.

Once the expenses of the association minus any income is determined, that total number generated is divided by the 990 households of the association, and then divided a final time by 4, achieving the quarterly assessment amount.

The *Reserve Expense Revenue* is similarly anticipated, however not by management. A third-party company (Reserve Advisors) is contracted to review the community in what is known as a Reserve Study.

The Reserve Component Inventory includes those items in every area and or aspect within the community where the association is liable for anticipated maintenance and repair. The clubhouse, swimming pool, bike paths, entryway signs, retention ponds and fountains are anticipated reserve expense examples. Maintenance for any capital improvements anticipated, and cost over a period of time are to be considered when calculating the reserves.

So, let us say for the sake of simplicity, that the clubhouse has a life expectancy of 30 years. Assume it would take \$300, 000.00 by today's standards to replace the clubhouse as "deferred maintenance and repairs" over its life expectancy. Dividing the cost for replacement by the life expectancy gives the amount the association would need to charge annually, among the membership, to provide adequate funds for the replacement/repair. (Example: \$300K clubhouse building / 30 yrs. life expectancy = \$10K per year reserve expense necessary).

There is a list of 25 qualifying reserve expenditures that the budget must account for over an extended period. Our fiduciary responsibility, as mandated by the state of Florida, is to save for these repairs to lessen

the overall long-term burden of the expense among the membership. The Reserve Study suggests the amount of reserve expense to charge each year over the course of 30 years and is updated every 3-4 years to account for material cost increases and inflation.

In a recent Board Certification Class, a homeowner asked, "when are we done paying into the reserves?" The answer given by the instructor was "Reserves never end, because maintenance never ends" The entire budget and reserve processes should be and are done with full transparency. Having a strong reserve fund shields homeowners, to some extent, from the necessity of having a special assessment.

As stated by the information above, the process is not generating arbitrary numbers, nor is it "management or the Board charging whatever they decide". The amount encompasses, in the case of *The Trails HOA*, 13 income sources and 35 expense items including the annual reserve amount. The annual budget for the next fiscal year is adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting open to the membership as mandated by Florida statute, typically held each November.

The recurring question of the membership is always "Are the dues increasing or staying the same?" It is our hope that this helps you understand the compilation of these crucial numbers, as they translate into the amount charged each year.

If you are interested in reviewing the Reserve Study or the 2020 budget, please log into your account at www.TomokaPM.com, where you will find the information available to you in your member dashboard. If you wish to participate in the Budget workshop (anticipated to meet in August, either in person or by Zoom) please email management or the Trails Treasurer to be added to the list of member participants. TrailsTreasHOA@gmail.com and or BHayes@TomokaPM.com.

MANAGERS CORNER

Brandie Hayes, LCAM/Notary
Tomoka Property Management.

A global pandemic was not anything I thought I would need to consider in performing the duties of an Association Manager or Real Estate Broker when I moved to Florida in 2004. The impact the pandemic has had on our community is small in comparison to other areas in the country. I always attempt to see the brighter side of this business – in order to not burn out, or take the downsides too personally – it's a hard business to be in some days.

The brightest moments of this pandemic for me have been the numerous members of the community who have gone above and beyond. To those members who are our first responders, front line workers and members who made it their mission to assist their neighbors within this community, I personally want to say thank you.

I also want to commend the community for putting their quarantined time towards improving their yards and property. We have had an unprecedented number of architectural change requests for home improvements. We have taken in 150% more applications over the same period in 2019. So many improvements took place after Matthew and Irma that we anticipated a slowing of property improvement requests 4 years post Matthew. Yet we are seeing and processing an unprecedented number of applications each month.

I have also never seen *The Trails* so green and in bloom. Even the mail ma'am, Laurie, has offered suggestions for Yard of the Quarter. The onsite detail crew and the Landscape Committee have tough decisions to make between the nominees for the honor this quarter.

As the association manager I find myself in an awkward position at times, of noticing members of the community with covenant violations that may seem small or petty. Specifically, there are violation letters I have sent recently regarding signs that acknowledge the 2020 Graduates, First Responders, and Frontline workers. My senior year of high school was amazing (even if it was more than 3 decades ago) and I am heartbroken for our graduates who didn't get



to do all the things that make being a senior fun. Having said all of that, while dating myself, it is still a requirement of my contract and the documents that notice is given to those who are in violation of the covenants. Please know that any compliance letter sent is never done in a way or meant to embarrass or ridicule anyone. The documents were written circa 1977-1978 without consideration to the *WHAT IF'S* a global pandemic brings. If you receive one of these letters and have any question or concern about it, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you received a sign violation letter (we've sent a dozen or so sign violation letters since April) please remove the sign within the allotted time frame stated in the letter to keep the violation from escalating.

The Trails HOA Board has purchased banners that have been hung at the clubhouse to honor our First Responders as well as congratulate our Graduating Class of 2020. Hats off to you all and thank you members for understanding that we

too are proud of your graduates, All-be-it we are still obligated to the covenants. *The Trails* has sent just under 145 violation letters in 2020.

For our four-legged, furry residents, several complaints have come in regarding pet owners who are not leashing and policing after you. Please talk to your human and beg them to take your safety into consideration by walking you on a leash and encourage them to clean up your waste.

For any concerns regarding covenant letters or other matters please do not hesitate to email questions to Requests@TomokaPM.com. The onsite management office is in the clubhouse at 201 Main Trail if you

would prefer to stop in with your questions, and as always you may call 386-673-0855. Until next edition stay safe, healthy and be happy!



ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

Storm Season

Ryan Ochipa, Chairman

Let's Get Ready!



Summer is here and in Florida that means hurricane season is upon us. As a kid I can remember picking up a tracking map at the grocery store and each evening my family and I would watch the 6 O'clock news. Weaver the Weatherman would give us coordinates and we could add a dot on our tracking map, thus allowing us to follow the storm across the ocean. Just as we do today, we would hope and pray that the storm would veer to the right or left, sparing us. Today; however, you just hop on your favorite smart phone app and you can see real time accurate displays and forecasts. I'm not sure which way of tracking I really prefer, they each have their pros and cons. Such is the life of a Floridian.

Storm by storm our anxiety levels will bob up and down, like the

storm waves. But don't fret, the ACC is here to ease a bit of that anxiety by giving you some helpful information for this storm season

To begin with, we would suggest that you prepare ahead of time this year as an incoming storm combined with COVID 19 issues may put real pressure on retailers. Please keep this in mind and prepare well ahead by stocking up on your supplies soon.

Should you have damage to your home, contact your insurance company and get in line for an adjuster to come inspect your home. While you are waiting, reach out to Brandie at the clubhouse and let her know your situation.

Paperwork for all repairs to the outside of the home must be approved by the ACC committee, before your repairs can begin. Brandie can help you fill out the necessary documents that will be needed for your approval. The storms can cause mandatory repairs that need to be addressed sooner rather than later. The ACC will take this all into account when reviewing your paperwork. We do not necessarily need every single detail on what is needed to complete the repair. A basic outline of the repairs is typically enough for approval so long as there will be no alterations to the home. We will work with you as best we can, depending on your specific situation. So, let us know as soon as possible what your situation is. We are all in this together.

The ACC wishes you a wonderful summer and a safe hurricane free storm season. We are here if you need us, but hopefully your old tracking map will find all your dots heading away from you!

SECRETARY MESSAGE

POW - ZAP

Rob Bridger, Secretary

Central Florida is the lightning capital of the world. Thunderstorms are prevalent especially at this time of the year. Pow - zap and just like that lightning strikes, there's a power surge, and your home's appliances and electronics are "fried". Some Trails homeowners have experienced issues with surges over the years.

To assist our community's residents deal with surge issues our Association's President, Jeffrey Levinson, asked me to convene an *ad hoc* Board committee - Dan Gowen, Kathleen Grabow, and Brandie Hayes - and negotiate with Kimberly Hall of FPL Home as it offers SurgeShield and Electronic Surge Protection programs.

A special "introductory offer" has been arranged for Trails residents, and readers are referred to FPL Home's half-page ad, page 6, in this edition of *The Canopy* for details about the offer. Participation is at the sole discretion of the homeowner/resident. For our residents who are renters please check with your homeowner if you are interested.

TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

The Trails HOA

Kristin Kiddy

The Trails HOA office is located on the first floor of the Trails Community Center and Pool complex. If you ever want to experience a slice of local history, pay a visit to our CAM (Community Association Manager), Brandie Hayes, and ask to see "the archives". The office has extensive records going back to 1975 including association meeting minutes, annual reports, and incredibly, individual property files.

That's right! There are files stored for each individual home site which can include original blueprints and building site plans. If you are a homeowner thinking of doing any remodeling projects, you could benefit greatly from having the original plans to your home! And even if you don't have any project in your future, it is a great piece of nostalgia. Brandie says come on down and collect your file!





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Different Summer

Constance Mellon

*The hot breath of summer heats up the days
As the sun bakes The Trails in a warm sleepy haze
"Getting hot," calls a neighbor, and swats at a bug
And the answer is simply a meaningful shrug.*

*Yes, summer is back, but it's different this year
A world-wide pandemic is suddenly here.
No end date in sight so our lifestyle must change
Six feet apart may be safe, but feels strange.*

*Still there are things that can fill us with joy
A father who laughs as he plays with his boy
Mom, dad, and the kids, and sometimes a dog,
Trading comments and jokes as they walk or they jog.*

*People on bikes as they whiz down the street
Calling greetings to friends that they happen to meet.
Much has been lost, but there have been some gains.
Families are closer and harmony reigns.*

*Trails folks seem kinder, more friendly, just nice.
Neighbor helps neighbor with chores and advice.
"We're in this together," they seem to agree
As they sit and they chat and they sip their iced tea.*

*The waiting is hard, for a new world awaits
What will it be like when this virus abates?
But here we will stand with our families and friends
To observe and adapt as the world slowly mends.*

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ADDITIONAL 20% DISCOUNT
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LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Summer's in Bloom

Brandie Hayes & Thomas Bell

The Sub HOA of the Quarter is **RACQUET CLUB VILLAS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**, chosen once again for its mindfulness in bloom! Their landscape vendor is Outdoors Xscape owned by Bobby Uffman who is a local business owner here in Ormond. Many of our subs, and *The Trails* Board of Directors, strive to support local business when we can. Congratulations Racquet Club Villas and Outdoors Xscape landscape! Several of the Sub HOA's are working on painting projects, new signs and entry curb appeal. We look forward to the upgrades that benefit our community and are grateful for their pride in ownership!



Kudos to our front line Yellowstone landscape crew.



Left to right: Darin Masi, Alex Figureroa, Michael Pluskota, Israel Mendoza, Jesus Felix, Jose Duran, and Hector Felix

Congratulations to the **Yard of the Quarter** winner, **1 RIVER RIDGE TRAIL**. The home belongs to **THOMAS & CATHERINE BELL**! This home was chosen among the several homes submitted by our committee and onsite landscape crew. The clean landscaping, pops of color and attractive use of Florida friendly landscape that ties in beautifully with the choices of plant material through the years by the landscape committee in keeping with the long-term landscape plan the committee establish 5 years ago, made this home really stand out. Additionally, this home has come a long way in both maintenance and curb appeal. Grateful neighbors, and even the Mail Ma'am have suggested it be considered for the honor. When asked about the decision to make *The Trails* and Ormond their home Mr. Bell provided an answer that I've often heard from new members of the community and I've included the answer he provided below, as he humbly assisted me in completing this article for *The Canopy*.

Cathy and I moved to Ormond Beach from Orlando in 2017. We quickly identified The Trails as one of our top neighborhood candidates. The homes were each distinctive, no 2 streets were the same, plenty of mature trees, and the winding trails were seemingly endless.

We chose our home at 1 River Ridge Trail for its unique architectural style and liked how it was nestled into the trees on a corner lot. Eyes wide open, we knew the home would be a labor of love, especially the landscaping.

We immediately identified a need to rehabilitate the yard; Cathy led the charge to breathe new life into our natural surroundings. Cathy's mother loved gardening and her father was a horticulturist/entomologist. Her goal was to create a yard that was pleasing to look

at, but would also welcome butterflies, bees, and the occasional hummingbird.

First, we removed several dead trees and several invasive species, and had a new fence installed that complimented both the house and the yard. Cathy created several landscaped beds that included a mix of evergreen shrubs and pops of color, such as knockout roses, Mexican heather, Texas sage, and Shasta daisies. Attracting the various birds and butterflies required pollinators, such as pentas, salvia, porter's weed, milkweed, and a firecracker plant.

Tom worked to revive the lawn, spread mulch, and add hardscape where needed. The highlight is a new front walkway that improved upon the lot's drainage and welcomes friends and neighbors to our home.

Many of our neighbors have stopped while working in the yard, telling how much they enjoy walking by to see what we have done lately. These kind words, and the recognition of the Trails Landscape Committee are greatly appreciated.



Photo: Thomas Bell



AROUND THE COMMUNITY

The Trails Racquet Club & Bike Trails ~ Open for You

Dan Gowen

During the recent "lockdown," Trails residents had at least two options for staying fit: our "bike paths" and The Trails Racquet Club. Trails residents took advantage of both, while adopting a few additional safety procedures to protect one another. Actually, it seemed that almost any time of day, there was a higher than normal number of residents using the paths during the restrictions. Dog walkers, family groups, and individuals walked, jogged, ran, and biked. Some people were masked, some were not, but most respected the suggested distancing guidelines.

When municipal tennis courts were closed, the Trails Club also closed, for a short time, then reopened. Jan Buenner, the club's owner and general manager, said, "we are lucky that tennis was declared to be an essential fitness activity. And, the club has loyal members who wanted to keep playing."

To reopen safely, Jan worked closely with the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) to initiate new "COVID-19 player safety procedures." Each player must have her/his own can of balls which only they touch. Players maintain distance, wipe equipment, and keep their hands to themselves and their

own equipment. These common-sense guidelines were not difficult, and the players assimilated them quickly.

USTA helped further by providing money to purchase COVID-inspired items, like a contactless water-bottle-filling station, a contactless ice dispenser, and a contactless credit card machine.

About 85 percent of the members continued to play during the confinement. That said, the economics, like the procedures, for tennis changed and have not returned to previous norms. A big change for the club has been that players tend to arrive, play, and then leave. As a result, traffic in the club house has been way down with a commensurate drop in sales of sundry items like snacks, drinks, and tennis accessories. Jan stated that like most small businesses, sales are down quite a bit and have been slow to come back. Nonetheless, the business is surviving, and he is optimistic that improvement will be forthcoming soon. We agree. After all, The Trails Racquet Club is top-notch, just like its members and owner.

If you have not visited the club, please do so. There are programs for all levels, and tennis is social and fun. Get out there and move.

COVID-19 PLAYING TENNIS SAFELY USTA PLAYER TIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEN PLAYING, PRACTICE THESE SAFETY GUIDELINES:

-  **Try to stay at least six feet apart from other players**
Do not make physical contact with the (such as shaking hands or a high five).
-  **When playing doubles coordinate with your partner to maintain physical distancing.**
-  **Between points, use your racquet and foot to pick up ball and hit them to your opponent.**
Avoid using your hands also when returning balls to another court.
-  **Wash your hands thoroughly or use a hand sanitizer before, during, and after play.**
-  **Maintain physical distancing if changing ends of the court.**
-  **Clean and wipe down your equipment, including racquets and water bottles.**
Use new balls and a new grip, if possible.
-  **Avoid touching your face after handling a ball, racquet or other equipment.**
Wash your hands promptly if you have touched your eyes, nose or mouth.
-  **Use only your own towels and water bottles.**
Avoid sharing food and touching common surfaces such as court gates, fences, benches, etc.

To see the USTA's full list of guidelines and recommendations, visit: usta.com/playersafety

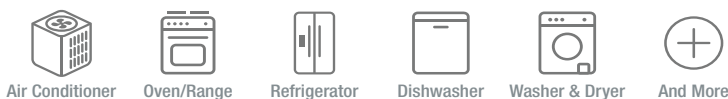
Strike One, You're Out

One Power Surge Can Cost You Thousands

Even a distant lightning strike can cause damage. During a storm a power surge can enter your home's electrical system and damage your appliances and in-home sensitive electronics. Enroll in the right surge protection program for you.

The **SurgeShield®** program attaches a state-of-the-art surge protector directly at your electric meter to help protect your appliances from power surges through your electric meter. SurgeShield also comes with a \$5,000 limited manufacturer's warranty per covered appliance, per occurrence for damages caused by a failure of the surge protector to properly perform.

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Electronics covered include:



\$9.95

plus tax, per month conveniently added to your FPL bill

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Life Goes on Even in a Pandemic A Covid-19 Collage for The Trails

Rob Bridger



A Salute to Front Liners

Meryl Frappier, a *Trails* homeowner and owner of FIG, Frappes Italian Grill, offered contact-less pick-up for take out dinners. Thank you, Meryl, for helping keep our Community, your patrons, and your long-time employees safe.

THANK YOU TO THE HELPERS.
#helpers

Marlys Omalley, R.N., a *Trails* homeowner, is a registered nurse and part-owner of Advanced Clinical Employment Staffing (ACES) based in Birmingham, AL. Her company has been in business since 2003. For the Covid-19 pandemic, they've staffed a large county facility in San Jose, CA with 500 nurses in their 3 facilities and still have nurses there assisting with the staffing deficits. She's an RN, and has worked all over the country in hospitals. But, since 2017, Marlys has been working from home



here in *The Trails* recruiting nurses to work in facilities across the USA.



Erin Bridger, R.N., a *Trails* homeowner is a registered nurse working at Halifax Hospital Medical Center in its Orthopedic and Oncology unit. She worries about keeping her patients, her staff and ultimately her family safe and insists on having the necessary PPE.

Trails Young People Speak Up - "What Was Best About Staying Home"

Rob Bridger

Typically, when we're threatened by hurricanes or other traumatic events grownups have some life experiences to share with and to comfort their children and grandchildren. Not so with the Covid pandemic; none of us has ever experienced anything like this.

Your Newspaper Committee thought it important to give the young people of our community an opportunity to speak up and tell us what they liked best about staying home. Let's hear what they have to say:

Aanya Grace Attri, nine years old, homeschooled

My favorite part about staying at home is doing lots of fun things with family and friends. My family has done things we would not usually be able to do, if it were not for Covid-19. So far, we have done many projects. We made a garden, baked cookies, cleaned up the house, and set up our projector to watch movies; we also played many games together.

My friend and I have also been working on a project virtually. We wrote a story together and are putting the finishing touches on a movie. It is about underwater dinosaurs in the Cretaceous Period! I have also been able to do activities and take classes online a lot more!

Andriya Bridger, thirteen years old, St. Brendan School

During the time of this pandemic, I had to experience a new type of education. Students in Volusia County and other places in the U.S., had to adapt to distance learning. At first, it was very difficult with everyone trying to log on at once, not having all the supplies needed, and trying to submit everything on time. After the first few days, I began getting used to it. Distance learning was not terrible.

There were some good things that came out of it. I had more free time and my schedule was a lot more flexible. I now had time to spend with my family and my neighborhood friends. Once I had completed my assignments for the day, I would meet up with some of my friends who live in *The Trails* and go on long bike rides to explore. I would not have been able to do this if I was still in school. I also wouldn't have been able to have as much family time and movie nights if I was still in a classroom. As difficult and tiring distant learning seemed, it was actually a little fun.

Tyler Kiddy, seventeen years old, Mainland High School

One positive thing that happened because of the lockdown was that I got to breeze through school way quicker than if I attended classes. Due to how new the online classes were for my teachers; they didn't give me as much work as they had been doing when we were meeting in person. So, I had a lot less work to do every day. Also, with my school work, I could multitask. For example, if one class had me sit through a video that required me to watch it in full to proceed, I could have that video on a second tab (window) while I wrote an essay for another class. All in all, considering both the lack of a commute to school, and the less school work that I had, I had more free time.

Frederic Rugg IV, a/k/a Tiger Rugg, 6th grade, Central Florida Preparatory School

Coronavirus has changed lives all around the world. While it might seem boring to sit around home all day, there are ways to have fun. For instance, I play video games with my friends. I get to talk to them and see how they have been. It's almost like we are hanging out. Though, instead of physically seeing them, I can talk to them online. Plus, the best part is that you can stay in your pajamas! I also partake in new hobbies. I ride my scooter in my driveway and go on daily bike rides. There are so many bike trails in *The Trails*. It is really beautiful to see all the animals and the flowers. I hope you found some ways to stay entertained.

Kate Stoll, thirteen years old, Riverbend Christian School

I have honestly loved online schooling because I can take breaks as I please and can go at a steady pace. I can also hang out with my family more and I love it! I am a competitive gymnast as well so I only got to see my family for 1 hour before I left home in the morning and only 2 hours before I went to bed after practice when I still went to school and gymnastics. It has also been less stressful. I can now go on walks with my family, have dinner with them, and hang out with my sister. It has been a blast!



Coping with Covid 19

Kristin Kiddy

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis introduced the statewide safer-at-home response to the Coronavirus pandemic back on April 3, 2020. We stayed at home, only venturing out to gather groceries (or we had those delivered) and maybe walk the dog. News headlines showed full hospitals and empty restaurants. Many of us lost work. Some lost their lives.

Then, beginning on May 4, Volusia county saw its first phase of openings begin and phase 2 went into effect on June 5. But life is definitely not back to normal, even at this writing on June 17th, 75 days later. We here at *The Canopy* wanted to find out how our friends and neighbors were dealing with the shut downs, closures, and the re-openings.



Photo compliments of Paul Nachtugal

Here's what we found:

Paul & Theresa Nachtigal – We found Paul mowing his lawn during a work break. He's now "indefinitely" working from home. It took him a few weeks to transition to an online work environment, upgrading his internet service for one. He still misses not being able to step outside his office door to hand something to his assistant. But there are positives too. "I do miss my coworkers, but I'm loving the dress code!"

Paul's son and daughter-in-law are on an extended stay with them. They were in transition with a move to Vermont, but jobs dried up with the shut downs, so they had to put everything on hold. Interviews are in the works now, however!

Even with the openings, Paul and his family are sticking to home. "We're still fighting over who gets to go to Publix." They cancelled their anniversary dinner at the Chart House. "We just wouldn't have felt comfortable enough to relax and enjoy the evening." They did however celebrate a family birthday with a pontoon boat rental in Ponce Inlet. It was the first weekend in a long time that felt "normal".

Rick & Jill Whitacre – You would have found Rick in his garage surrounded by his woodworking projects even if there wasn't a pandemic. He's a homebody and is the first to admit the stay at home orders didn't affect his day to day life that much. On the other hand, his daughter had to complete her sophomore year of high school at home. "That was tough."

Another thing that was tough happened unexpectedly. A close family member passed away (of natural causes) and the funeral process was very challenging to navigate. The church limited the memorial service to 10 people, essentially immediate family only, and there was no wake following the burial. "It was hard on everyone."

Kristin & Kevin Kiddy – Kevin was on an extended business trip in Mexico when the pandemic flared up. On March 31, the State Department issued a level 4 health advisory (Do Not Travel). Kevin was on a plane back to the United States on April 4, getting one of the last (cheap) seats available.

Now safe at home, Kevin's day to day isn't much different than before the pandemic. He's a computer programmer and has been working remotely for the past 8 years. He often only goes out to walk the dog or occasionally walk on the beach with Kris.

Their two sons are home as well. Their older son had to cut short his first year at FSU. This summer is a quiet one; no trips or summer jobs. He is taking an online class to get ahead with his credits.

Weekends are mostly home improvement projects. Lowes is one of the few stores you'll find Kevin in. Kris and Kevin miss their date nights. They ventured out for margaritas and Mexican food once, at the start of the re-openings, but haven't been out since. "Better to be safe than sorry."

Please.....Don't Feed the Wildlife!

Maureen Bridger, Guest Writer



We in *The Trails* are fortunate to have our own small ecosystem with much biodiversity of vegetation, flora and fauna. Our canopy of hardwood trees provides needed summer shade and cleans the air we breathe while sheltering beautiful native and migratory birds and small mammals. A

variety of palms adds grace and beauty to our landscape. Common areas are tended with lovely green and flowering plants.

Lately, we have witnessed a change in the numbers and types of mammals that coexist with residents. In addition to the ubiquitous squirrels, raccoons and armadillos, there have been regular sightings of wild turkeys, rabbits, foxes and coyotes. That phenomenon is due, in part, to loss of habitat as a result of several ongoing development and construction projects in Ormond Beach.

Recently, well intentioned residents have placed bowls of food in common areas to feed wildlife and /or feral cats (yes, feral cats are considered wild). Some individuals may feel sorry for or want to protect these animals, or may simply desire to feel connected with nature. However, there are a number of reasons this activity must cease.

Florida Administrative Code 68A-4.001(3) prohibits the feeding of wildlife. This rule is specific to the placement of human or pet food including garbage. Doing so creates a myriad of undesirable situations.

Wild animals are capable of feeding themselves but, instinctively, are opportunistic. If food is offered, they will eat. Have you noticed how fat our squirrels are? Human food does not provide the nourishment wild animals require and can be harmful. Food that is not part of the natural diet upsets the bacterial balance in an animal's gut resulting in disease. Unnatural feeding habits can also affect reproductive rates causing over population and competition for food and territory. When there are too many babies, they won't learn proper foraging skills and become sick or die. At the very least, feral animals can lose their natural fear of us and become a nuisance. Sometimes, when we force animals to compete for food, they become aggressive with each other or humans. Pets and young children could be at risk for bites. Coyotes and foxes can carry rabies.

Feeding wildlife also attracts unwanted scavengers such as insects, mice and rats. Also, we know that with destruction of habitat, as noted previously, bears might be attracted to residential areas. We had a bear sighting in *The Trails* a few years ago.



There are legal and environmentally helpful practices that allow us to commune with our natural wonderland. Feeding wild birds is a legal, safe and creature friendly activity. Learning the specific kinds of seed for various birds can be a fun and educational activity for adults and children. Natural landscaping with Florida friendly plants sustains the environment benefitting wildlife. Butterflies and hummingbirds appreciate feeders (please, no red

food color) and flowers that offer the nectar upon which they thrive. Lastly, photographing wildlife and the surroundings preserves moments of natural wonder.

So, let us be smart stewards of our beautiful neighborhood. Observe wild animals from a distance, encouraging them to hunt and forage according to their instincts. A conscientious balance of our natural environment protects our human residents, promotes the health of our animal friends and insures enjoyment for all.

Before ... During ... and After

Kristin Kiddy

Well folks, it's hurricane season again! Time to crack open the gas cans and put up the storm shutters.

But seriously, now is the time to get ready for a severe weather event.

One of the best ways to prepare is to think about what you need to do before, during, and after the storm.

REMOVE THIS PAGE AND KEEP IN A HANDY PLACE TO USE IF NEEDED.

BEFORE the Storm

- Gather your emergency supplies and documents. We've included a checklist at the end of this article detailing what you should have on hand.
- Fill jugs or Ziplock bags with water and freeze in the freezer. They can provide some of the water you need as they keep your perishable food fresh a little longer.
- The Penny Trick is especially helpful if you evacuate. Freeze a cup of water and then put a penny on top. Stash it in the freezer. If the power goes out long enough for the ice to melt, the penny will be on the bottom, signaling that those frozen goods are spoiled and must be trashed.
- Fill a plastic garbage can with water and store outside. While not meant for drinking, you can use this water to flush toilets in the event the water is shut off.
- Storm shutters should not be a last-minute thought. To reduce stress, purchase or construct storm shutters well before a storm is looming on the horizon. There are many Do-it-Yourself options. If using plywood, make sure the minimum thickness is 5/8". Do not use particle board. It does not offer adequate protection from flying debris. For a lighter option, polycarbonate panels are easy to cut and hang. These can be found in limited supply at local hardware big box stores. Metal shutters offer excellent protection at an affordable cost. Online suppliers offer the most variety in sizes and will ship directly to you.
- **Do NOT tape windows.** Taping windows can actually be dangerous. When un-taped windows get hit with flying debris, they're liable to shatter into a million tiny pieces. But, when taped windows are hit with debris, they still break, but into larger, damaging shards.
- If you have a lot of trees around your home, have a licensed arborist evaluate them for hazards. Trees should be pruned for safety and for tree health.
- Secure outdoor furniture, equipment, and don't forget the boat.
- Gas up the car. If you have a generator, store extra gas in gas cans only.
- Prepare for flooding. Put valuables on high places. Place important papers in plastic zipper baggies. Have buckets, mops, towels ready. You can use towels at window sills and doors to keep water from leaking in.

DURING the Storm

Most people will choose to shelter in place during a hurricane if they live outside an evacuation zone. Your home can be a safe and familiar place, but be prepared for emergencies.

- Know where you can take refuge away from windows and exterior doors, such as an interior hallway, closet or bathroom near load bearing walls.
- Leave the main breaker on unless the electricity goes off or you evacuate prior to the storm. If the electricity goes off, turn off air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, television sets and computers to avoid damage due to power surges. If the power returns and is steady, these may be turned back on.
- Use battery powered lanterns and flashlights. Avoid candles and have a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to exit your home in case of fire. This can be more difficult if you have installed storm shutters.
- The eye of the hurricane is only half way. Do not go outside unless repairs are absolutely essential. Winds will begin again from the opposite direction and they are often stronger.
- Hurricanes often spawn tornados. Monitor your local news station and if a tornado warning is issued, take cover in an interior hallway or lower level if in a tall building. Stay away from glass doors and windows. You also can seek shelter under heavy furniture in the center of the house.
- Keep windows and doors closed. There is no need to crack them to alleviate pressure. Most buildings are not air tight to begin with. Opening windows just allows strong winds to enter your house and cause damage.
- Stay away from the fuse box, main breaker and electrical outlets in the event of flooding. Normally the electric current will fail with flooding.



**Hurricane
Preparedness**
Are YOU Ready?

AFTER the Storm

More people die after a hurricane than during one. Move carefully. Be alert!

- Treat all downed power lines as if they are live. If you see a power line down, call 9-1-1.
- Avoid standing water which may hide downed power lines or hazardous debris. Don't venture out in the dark because you might encounter a power line that could still be live.
- Guard against spoiled food. When in doubt, throw it out.
- Immediately following a storm, do not use tap water unless you know it is safe. If a boil-water order is issued, boil water at a rolling boil for one minute to kill infectious organisms. If you don't have power, you can mix eight drops (1/8 teaspoon) of unscented household bleach per gallon of water and let it stand for 30 minutes.
- Do not drive unless it is an emergency. If the power is out, traffic lights will not be working. Stop signs and street signs may be blown away. Streets will be littered with debris. Washouts may have weakened road and bridge structures.
- If you have damage, take pictures for your insurance company and then use plastic sheeting, plywood etc. to seal or protect the property.
- Practice generator safety. Only run outside (not the garage!) in a well-ventilated area, away from open windows. Carbon monoxide is invisible, odorless, and deadly.
- Practice chainsaw safety. Keep both hands on the handles. Never cut above your head. Wear protective clothing, goggles, and shoes.
- Practice heat stroke safety. Drink alcohol free, non-caffeinated beverages. Rest or take a cool shower if feeling overheated. Wear lightweight clothing. Avoid strenuous activities during the peak heat of the day.

Signs of heat exhaustion may include heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, fainting, cool and moist skin, fast and weak pulse rate, and fast and shallow breathing. If you experience any of these symptoms, seek medical attention.



Hurricane Supply Checklist

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.
- Enough food for 3-7 days. Non-perishable packaged or canned food and juices, food for infants and the elderly, snack food, vitamins, paper plates and plastic utensils.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First-aid kit, medicines, and prescription drugs
- Whistle to signal for help
- Toiletries, including hygiene items, moisture wipes, and hand sanitizer
- Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Dust mask for clean up
- Cloth face coverings for shelters
- Cash
- Pet items: food, water, medicine, carrier/cage, leash, immunization records
- Important documents in a waterproof container:
 - Insurance papers
 - Identification
 - Medical records
 - Bank account numbers
 - Social Security cards
 - Deeds or mortgages
 - Birth and marriage certificates
 - Stocks and bonds
 - Recent tax returns
 - Wills

The coronavirus has already meant a new addition to your shelter supply list. The CDC recommends if you need to go to a public shelter, bring at least two cloth face coverings for each person and, if possible, hand sanitizer.

Sources:
 Fema.gov
 National Weather Service
 Florida Division of Emergency Management, FloridaDisaster.org
 Volusia County Emergency Management

THE TRAILS SHOPPING CENTER: Update

Dan Gowen

The Trails Shopping Center is nearly fully open. Weight Watchers is operating virtually, and Publix is still under construction, but on schedule according to the HGR onsite manager, in spite of the COVID constraints. All other businesses are open. Aria Cucina, Asian Bistro, Dairy Queen, La Fiesta, and NY Pizza operated during the restrictions and continue to serve great food. T. Gregory, Trails Liquors, and UPS also continued serving customers.



Joining us soon is So Napa Grille, a popular American cuisine restaurant in New Smyrna Beach that specializes in pairing foods with California wines. So

Napa will rejuvenate the former steakhouse space. Founder Adam Barringer said that he chose *The Trails* because of the special "community feel" of the shopping center. He also liked that the location is adjacent to *The Trails* and has close proximity to other neighborhoods. Mr. Barringer did not have a date for opening, but is targeting October. We wish the So Napa team good luck.

Also coming soon is a Great Clips shop. We do not have an opening date as yet.

On a sad note, Jos. A. Bank will be closing its store in The Trails Shopping Center on July 18th.

Shop One's facelift for our shopping center continues with pleasing results. You may have noticed that some welcomed paving is getting done, as well. Sheila Beaulieu, Shop One's resident manager, certainly has her hands full dealing with her business clients, as well as the construction crews. Stop and say, "hello" and "thanks" the next time you are cruising the Trails shops.



**Family.
Friends.
Community.**



We're all in this together.

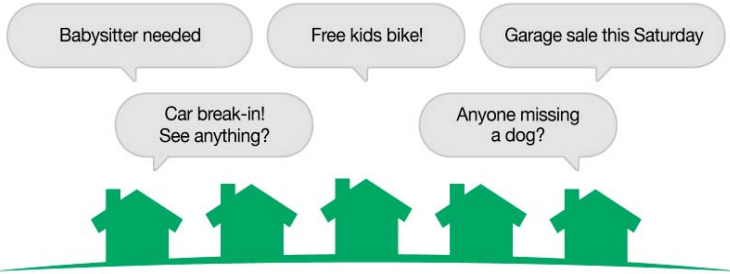
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Please join us on Nextdoor The Trails - Ormond Beach



Nextdoor The Trails - Ormond Beach is the neighborhood hub for trusted connections and the exchange of helpful information, goods, and services. On Nextdoor, neighbors share crime and safety concerns, local events, recommendations, items for sale/free, ideas about how to make our neighborhood better, and more.

Our neighborhood is using an online platform called Nextdoor. Please join us to build a better neighborhood!

- Brandie H.
Main Trl

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IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CLUBHOUSE

CLUBHOUSE EVENTS

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. is the Mahjong Club

Thursdays 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. is the Card club (each week).

Note: on the 4th Thursday of the month the Card Club plays at a local eatery after enjoying a social lunch.

JULY 2020

July 9 Trails HOA Board of Directors meeting 6:30 p.m. Zoom.us
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71145262956> Password: TrailsHOA

July 22 ACC Meeting 8:30 a.m. 1st Floor conference room (Clubhouse)

July 22 Ormond Beach Art Guild 8:00 a.m. 2nd floor (Clubhouse)

July 29 Ormond Beach Art Guild 8:00 a.m. 2nd floor (Clubhouse)

AUGUST 2020

Aug 6 Landscape Committee meeting 3:00 p.m. 2nd floor (Clubhouse)

Aug 12 ACC Meeting 8:30 a.m. 1st Floor conference room (Clubhouse)

Aug 13 Trails HOA Board of Directors meeting 6:30 p.m. Zoom.us
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71145262956> Password: TrailsHOA

Aug 14 Intent to Candidate for Trails Board of Directors due by 4 p.m.
(Close of business day)

Aug 17 Volusia County Schools back in session (Tentative)

Aug 26 ACC Meeting 8:30 a.m. 1st Floor conference room (Clubhouse)

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sept 3 Landscape Committee meeting 3:00 p.m. 2nd floor (Clubhouse)

Sept 7 Office closed for the Labor Day holiday!

Sept 9 ACC Meeting 8:30 a.m. 1st Floor conference room (Clubhouse)

Sept 10 Trails HOA Board of Directors meeting 6:30 p.m. Zoom.us
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71145262956> Password: TrailsHOA

Sept 13 Grandparents Day

Sept 18 Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown

Sept 22 First day of Fall Y'all!

Sept 23 ACC Meeting 8:30 a.m. 1st Floor conference room (Clubhouse)

Sept 27 Yom Kippur begins at sundown

OCTOBER 2020

Oct 3 Members Annual and Organizational meeting
9:00 a.m. - 2nd floor (Clubhouse)

Oct 8 Trails HOA Board of Directors meeting 6:30 p.m. Zoom.us
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71145262956> Password: TrailsHOA

Oct 14 ACC Meeting 8:30 a.m. 1st Floor conference room (Clubhouse)

Oct 28 ACC Meeting 8:30 a.m. 1st Floor conference room (Clubhouse)

Oct 31 Happy Halloween!

Fun Facts:

- The Calendar for April and July this year falls the same by days of the week, apart from July having 31 days.
- Americans are known to consume 150,000,000 hotdogs over the Fourth of July holiday.
- Only two American colonists signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776, John Hancock and Charles Thompson

