



**Your MONTHLY Garden Gnome News! "with a little help from my friends!"**

**Volume 2, Issue 2**

**HOME OF THE GNOME!**

**February 2017**

**Don't Worry Be Happy !**

A nice little jingle Bobby McFerrin put out in 1988 that became number one on the charts because it actually made people happy. Just to start, The purpose of this column is to mirror the same sentiments throughout our own neighborhood, and I believe the Gnome is another resource to pass that thought along.

I would like to, monthly, update you on anything that is going on within our common interest, ever how boring it may sound from time to time, kind of a accountability check list of how your dollars are being spent, and/ or a little extra way of being kept in the loop on project progress, besides making sure you come out to the **scheduled board meetings (by the way is February 13th @10am).**

The first thing I'd like to pass along is thank you to all of you that have continued to show your interest and support in our common areas, improvement success, and also having confidence in our 2017 team, with both your vote and support in either accepting or continuing to volunteer your time & efforts on our various committees in making this a place we "Don't worry be happy".

Our concrete pad has been a wonderful addition to our community and I'm sure we all are pleased and looking forward to all the things we can use it for as we move forward. Particular hats off to the ongoing furnishing project committee that has been as successful as it is through the efforts of Janet, Alexis & Teri.

***I would also like to remind everyone that the way to report any issue you may have (simple as from your EZ chair) is to always use the same number to report all 239-243-8700 and ask for AMANDA she also has voicemail & e-mail: [maintenance@swflcam.com](mailto:maintenance@swflcam.com) TAPE IT TO YOUR FRIDGE!!***

This would also include any concerns you may have with any of the community's rules and regulations. Amanda will assure that the right people get your message and it is resolved.

I hope this **HELP!** number eases the hassle of getting your common area needs reported and taken care of.

OK, I'll stop now..... until next month:  
Don't Worry Be Happy !! ~Johnie

**The New Board**

In a stunning turn of events (ok, I'm easily stunned it seems lately), I am your new Vice President AND Secretary and Johnie Mason the THIRD is now your beloved President! ("Hail to the Chief, he's the Chief that needs the Hailing" ~ from the dvd Dave) And I being only Bekki Jo Shanklin, The First, I'm Vice President..

After recovering from the shock, I looked around for my personal Secret Service Detail and wanting my secret name for when I'm going from my condo to the clubhouse ("Typer" on the Move .. "Big Guy" already seated safely in the Clubhouse). Alas, it's just me wandering around on the grounds.. the Detail nowhere in sight.. sigh..

Also expecting an ticker tape parade on one of the drive ways, (*that would be me with the bad hair in the photo*), I was again saddened that only a plastic bag lifted gently across the way and I had to get out and grab and dispose of that myself. (Tears)



Anyway, Johnie and I had our first official meeting of the minds the other day. It used to be called "picking each other's brains", but in this day of the 'etheric cloud' now we "hack each others cloud".. and came up with some pretty darned interesting information.

We will impart this to all as we get it wrestled into our own minds, first. But some of it.. ok a LOT of it is pretty darned cool! This will help a lot of our owners who are computer savvy and bring the owners who aren't closer to the owners who are. Hint: There is a program out there that associations are privvy to that, when there is an issue on the grounds, or even between owners, that you can call a person (sort of like Siri) and tell them the issue, it's recorded and sent to a maintenance person or the CAM officials, and it is handled and documented that it's been handled, for all to log in and see! We'll go into more and more detail as WE learn more! Later, Taters!! ~ Bekki

***See page 2 & 3 for the list of our New Board and Current Committees***

## Surveys

It's almost time again for the surveys to come wafting to our doors. And there are even MORE reasons this year for these important little documents than ever before.

When Lucretia passed this last year, she was the epitome of paranoia. Both she and her husband, Robert, were supreme conspiracy theorists and felt they could back up their suspicions with fact. Ok, they kept wanting me to see their 'truths' but I never got around to actually seeing and learning about them, BUT in their hearts and minds they were facts.

Now, because of this, they refused to give over a key and they never did put down an emergency contact.. "IN CASE OF.." So, when Lucretia's work called after her not coming to work for three days, if nothing else, Lucretia was prompt, on time and NEVER missed a day of work, the police were alerted that there was something wrong.

So, with no access to a key to her place, the police and fire department had to crawl through her kitchen window. Luckily there was a cop or two with small buns that were able to fit and hop over her kitchen sink and let the rest in via the door.

Lucretia had NEVER even allowed me into her place in all the years we were excellent friends. She'd bring food over for us to eat at my table so many times and if she wanted me to see something, she'd haul it down to my place rather than me go up to hers because she didn't want me to see how she lived.

You can imagine her little spirit freaking out when about 15 people were in her house unannounced. So sad. BUT, she never would fill out the Survey Form.

To this day, people refuse to fill it out again. Their cry is that nothing has changed. But as of this date, trying to send emails to some of our owners now and the emails bounce back to me, because their emails have changed and we don't have a new record of changes.

We forget little changes in our lives that will hinder help and knowledge of our fellow owners in case of their needing our help.

The surveys are not to snoop into your lives, it's to help you incase of emergency!, YES? so when they come around again, GET ON IT! And get them back to us! Dig? ~ Bekki, the Cranky Gnome!



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## The Patio and New Slab as of Christmas Eve

### Super Bowl LI

Come join us in the club house from about 5:30 til after the game:

Sunday, February 5, 6:30 PM  
New England Patriots vs Atlanta Falcons

~\*~\*~

Bring snackies & whatever you want to drink & root for your favorite team!



### Your Current Board Members

President: Johnie Mason

<johniemason@msn.com >

Vice President: Bekki Shanklin

<bekki1949@gmail.com>

Treasurer: Johnie Mason

Secretary: Bekki Shanklin

Directors and Emails:

Denise Rees <drees53@yahoo.com>

Janice Noble <rnquickstep@comcast.net>

Richard Slater <swiftclick@aol.com>

Alexis Linder <alexislinder1@gmail.com>

John Wiley <svmaryc@hotmail.com>

Margaret Chadburn <mchadfat@centurylink.net>

Ann Palmer

Mary Cunliff

***New Year's Eve in the Hood!***  
***Also celebrating Sandy and Jack O'Neil's 50th anniversary!!!***



Seminole Gardens : ALL OF US WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE FOR ALL OF US !!!

Let's make life EZ. I'm pleased to announce that each association member/owner will have one contact person dedicated to fielding your calls to the right representative @ Seminole Gardens Condominiums for the purpose of resolving any situations you may have concerning the commons areas. Including : Grounds Electric Lighting, water, sewer, trash pick-up, outside building maintenance, lawn care, landscaping, irrigation, tree trimming, outside pest control, pool, clubhouse, Patios. & any rules or regulation issues. Please call:

***Maintenance Coordinator***

AMANDA 239-243-8700 (Has voice & email as well)  
 maintenance@swflcam.com

Volunteers leading the way to a better quality of LG..... Life is Good

**Committees:**

- Chairman ~ Liaison~ Grounds: Ray Noble/Richard Slater
- Maintenance: John O'Neil/Johnie mason
- Pool: Gloria Robilotta/Johnie mason
- Clubhouse: Brenda Mason/Janice Noble
- Social: tba/ Alexis Linder
- Building Representatives ~ Bldg.~ Tel #
- Will contact you in case of emergencies:
- Marg Prozaki: A ~ 313-720-6543
- Alexis Linder: B ~586-216-2635
- Ann Palmer: C ~239-694-4522
- Richard Slater: D ~ 304-767-5298
- Kathryn (Kathy) Francis: E ~ tba
- Denise Rees: F~ 239-362-3903

**Want to volunteer ? We can sure use another friend !! Call me, Thank You, Johnie @ 304-860-8380 orf 304-222-6552 JOHNIEMASON@MSN.COM**

***Daily Mojo***

By Janey Hesche

Well friends, it is amazing what a visit from one of your children can do to your life! My youngest child, Kalie, came to Florida for Thanksgiving this year.

Kalie is a runner like me and insisted I was going to run farther and faster while she was here visiting. It fell on deaf ears when I brought up our thirty- one year age difference, her long legs vs. my short legs and that I was quite happy with my time and distance. She issued a CHALLENGE.



Well, my friends, I AM competitive! Instead of my easy flat three miles around our neighborhood, we ran four miles every morning on the bridge and McGregor Ave. I did

run farther and faster and was so happy that it was for only four days.

As we drove her to the airport her next CHALLENGE was issued. A thirty- one day Run Streak. What is that, I naively inquired? Every day in December I had to run at least one mile. She said that she had heard about an **old guy**, my age, that had been on a Run Streak for 5,284 days, even after he had been hit by a car. Oy, I AM competitive, so I accepted the challenge!

The story isn't over yet, folks. The January challenge was thirty-one days of Yoga. Half an hour of Yoga, every day. Of course, I was in! I loved every moment of it. Kalie dropped out of the Yoga challenge at day 18, and missed a day of the Run Streak due to snow and ice in Philadelphia. I guess us "Old Guys" have endurance and nice weather.

The moral of this story is I like a Challenge. Do I have to accept every one of them? No. I told Kalie February was a "Challenge Free Zone."

I do the Challenges with purposeful, powerful and positive MOJO. In fact, I issued a challenge to myself, for myself, and by myself to do the 2017 I Love to Run Challenge. I have one year to run, walk or crawl, 1000 miles.

I asked my husband, Stephen, "What is your Challenge." His response, "To do absolutely nothing, the rest of his life!" That's my guy. He keeps me smilin'!

My question to you. What is your CHALLENGE? Closing this month with my favorite quote from the LIFE IS GOOD guys.....

**DO WHAT YOU LIKE, LIKE WHAT YOU DO!**

namaste

Jill Conner Browne-  
author of Sweet Potato  
Queen books



### Sweet Potato (Queen) Cornbread



*This recipe comes straight from "The Sweet Potato Queens' Big-Ass Cookbook. Another one of those things where I'm gonna write down the recipe exactly like it's portrayed in the cookbook.....you have to do the Queen's justice. :)*  
50 mins to make, serves 18

By crazycookinmama

#### **Ingredients:**

3 Sweet potatoes ~ Refrigerated 2 Eggs

#### **Baking & Spices:**

1 cup All-purpose flour ~ 4 tsp Baking powder

1 cup Cornmeal, yellow ~ 1 tsp Salt

1/2 cup Sugar

#### **Oils & Vinegars:**

3 tbsp Oil

#### **Dairy:**

6 tbsp Milk

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Mom's is the ultimate example of a life well-lived. I am in total awe of her. She's smart, accomplished, beautiful-inside and out-loving, courageous, and bubbling over with the sheer joy of living. It's been an easy fifty years for Dad, clearly. To further endear her to me personally, she and her friends turn out some excellent eats! Mom herself makes this sweet potato cornbread that is worth driving all the way to Mountain Pine, Arkansas, for, but you won't have to-here's how you do it.

Mix together this dry stuff: 1 cup all-purpose flour, 1 cup yellow cornmeal, 4 teaspoons baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, and 1/2 cup sugar.

Separately, mix together this wet stuff: 3 sweet potatoes, cooked and mashed (or you may use 1 16 ounce can of sweet potatoes, and in this recipe, it really is okay not to use home-cooked ones, I would tell you if it mattered), 2 eggs, 6 tablespoons milk, and 3 tablespoons oil.

Then mix the dry stuff and the wet stuff, just until it's all moist (don't beat it to death), then put it in greased muffin tins and bake at 425 until done-usually about 15 to 20 minutes.

## Downtown Fort Myers

# EVENTS

### **Art Walk:**

October 7/8  
November 4/5  
December 2/3  
January 6/7  
February 3/4  
March 3/4  
April 7/8  
May 5/6  
June 2/3  
July 7/8  
August 4/5  
September 1/2

### **Bike Night (4):**

November 12  
January 14  
March 11  
May 13

### **Car Cruise-In:**

October 22  
November 26  
December 24  
January 28  
February 25  
March 25  
April 22  
May 27

### **Creative Arts Market:**

November 11-12  
December 9-10

### **Downtown Countdown:**

December 31

### **Freedom Fest:**

July 4

### **Holiday Stroll:**

December 2

### **Music Walk:**

October 21  
November 18  
December 16  
January 20  
February 17  
March 17  
April 21  
May 19  
June 16  
July 21  
August 18  
September 15

### **Mystery Walk:**

October 14  
November 11  
December 9  
January 13  
February 10  
March 10  
April 14  
May 12

### **Pet Walk:**

October 28  
November 25  
December 23  
January 27  
February 24  
March 24  
April 28  
May 26

### **St. Patty's Day:**

March 17

### **Veterans Day Parade:**

November 12

The events listed above are brought to you by the River District Alliance with support of our partners, sponsors, and members. All RDA events are free & family friendly for you to enjoy and explore the one-of-a-kind historic downtown Fort Myers River District.

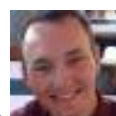
Event changes in times/dates may periodically occur. Please be sure to visit our website prior to attending:

[www.fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com](http://www.fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com)

The River District Alliance would like to thank our sponsors, volunteers and event donors who make Downtown Fort Myers rock!



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