



Welcome to



!!!SEPTEMBER!!!



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

Volume 2, Issue 9

HOME OF THE GNOME!

September 2017

What we need in the board members going forward:

Now & 2018: It will be so important, in the future, as we move forward to have the people that have and are willing to give their time and be qualified to use their life career business management experiences in the management of our Seminole Gardens Condo Association Members futures.

We need a BOD that will, not lease than that one time a month, leave the wrist watch at home and clear their calendar to get down to business and willing to invest that time to give and get great sound opinions that are gathered from self and other association members to conclude that day getting it done in orderly protocol for the best interest of all.

These people are the type that are willing to represent all the peoples needs and wants not personalities. Only be judgmental about the project and positively open minded to all ideas.

BOD members need to truly understand our documents that were written by the people of the association while understanding the laws (Florida Statues) of our state.

I hope this information has been informative and much valued learning for the future.

El Presidente, Johnie .. and Mr.s El Presidente, Brenda



My PERSONAL thoughts for what a person who wants to be a member of the Board Of Directors SHOULD consider and achieve before volunteering to be a Bloard member:

by Bekki Shanklin, human and not as a SCGA board member

1. Every board member needs to have an email and can actively access it themselves with their own voices and bites on issues that need their personal input .. E-mail address needs to belong to the board member when responding to board business. Board member owner spouses and/ or owner family should communicate community feedback of their own on a separate e-mail address so the board can respectfully understand each persons individual views.



2. Actively sticking to the agenda that was prepared by the President and the sitting board. No member of the association, regardless, should be wandering off into the wilderness to establish their own agenda deliberately adding hours to the meeting.

3. Is not a place-holder chair-warmer, 'recruit to serve as an extra vote for another members self-serving agenda ', But, is willing to be an active participant for the WHOLE year. Attending all meetings, active on the 'getter done' team, as per abilities, and not just when there is a meeting.

4. Adds NO drama to the meeting.. is respectful and professional whether in the meetings or in the grounds

5. Can be prepared with research of items on the agenda before bringing up at the meetings. And bring the research bio with the item to be discussed.

6. Have viable ideas for improving the life of the owners through improving the common areas and grounds, not just for personal reasons or to get into owners personal lives and business.

If these suggestions can't be met, and if you've moved here to retire and not be actively involved in the common area operations management, It is my opinion that you respectfully do not reach out to become a board member. ~ Bekki

Last month the Gnome covered, in depth, the pool rules, there is NO wiggle room about any of those rules. See below which has been found MANY times since just last month;

Several times owners have gone to the pool to find the padlock open and ust hanging thereon the fence, I KNOW no one wants the code guy to see that and close down the pool for an undetermined amount of time and probably dun us with a hefty fine for it being an endangerment to unaccompanied (also a rule infringement) child or person who could be hurt of some random neighborhood kids sneaking in where WE will bear the brunt of their injury or death.

So, if no one cares a tiny rat doot, then carry on.. otherwise, shape it up people, or LOSE THE POOL!!

GENTLE REMINDER ~ YOU ARE THE MAID

Please remember that SG does not have a cleaning service. If you schedule an event of any kind YOU ARE THE MAID. Your fellow owners expect you to vacuum, clean the toilets, wipe the tables and chairs, empty bathroom and kitchen trash, clean the kitchen etc. after each event. Whether it is bunko, quilting, card making or a birthday party, if you reserved the room please make sure you leave it in pristine shape for the next get together. Your fellow unit owners will appreciate it. If you are physically incapable of performing these duties it is up to you to find a volunteer to do it for you. Thank you.

Bek The Tech advise

Someday, your computer is going to stop working and you'll sadly or for some, happily, need to buy a new unit. Do you have all of your program disks in one place?

We can clone your current hard drive with your photos and files but we CANNOT move your precious programs into your new computer.

My best suggestion to you is to flit around your home and gather every CD you have that could have the programs put back on your new, sparkling computer that is totally free of every thing you like on your present computer.

And about the time you brag that nothing will happen to your current computer, guess what, it's going to 'crap' on you and you'll be freaking out.;

Get a shoe box, a clear bin, whatever it takes for you to get yourself in order so all you need to do if you DON'T have a special tech and can do it yuourself, to get it done..

Trust me, if you don't, you'll have to repurchase your favorite things

Daily Mojo

By Janey Hesche

Stella Part 3

(Phoenix, the Powerful)

.....and so Stella was put on a transplant list. Is this an easy feat? Of course not. The testing is extensive. Your health and age are just a drop in the bucket of what they must know. Blood and tissue type, medical urgency. There is a Kidney Donor Profile Index (KPDI) which rates the health of the donor kidney.

A huge factor that is taken into consideration is your support team. The follow up after this life giving operation is crucial. Who would her support system be?

Well Stella has a big family and a large circle of friends who reached out from all over, near and far. She lists off the people who volunteered to assist her. Some from our very own back yard. Arlene Johnson, Pat and Tony Vervena, Jadwiga Lawrenz. Her grand-daughter, who at the time was in college. Her brother, who is a Dr. himself in Baltimore, Maryland, the nephew in Amsterdam and the nephew in New York who is a banker. This follow up team would indirectly be just as important as her transplant team!

So, year after year, Stella would be tested to assure she was in good health when a kidney became available. Year after year many on her support team attended the annual seminar that Gulf Coast Hospital hosted so everyone knew what to expect and what would be required for Stella's recovery after the transplant. Remember I said in Stella, part two, we would hear about the power of family, friends and a stranger or two!

In 2013, Stella received a call at midnight. It was Gulf Coast Hospital saying they had a kidney available and she would need to be at the hospital by 6:00 the next morning. The first thing she did was to make calls to her family and friends. Her emotions were running so high. The ever responsible Stella also sat down and paid all her bills. Around 3:30 in the morning the hospital called again and said the kidney was a "NO". Unfortunately, further testing indicated it wasn't the exact match they were looking for in Stella's case. I asked Stella if deep devastation washed over her. Of course, her reply was, no. Not devastation, just disappointment. Again, the positivity she had been raised with came rushing to the surface and reminded her that tomorrow was another day and a deep feeling, telling her everything would work out.

In 2014, her family decided that they would get tested to see if any of them would be a match to donate a kidney to Stella. Lo and behold, a nephew in Guyana was a match! And just as luck would have it, due to unfortunate circumstances at Gulf Coast Hospital, the live donor program was abruptly shut down. (and still is today.)

Well friends, life went on for Stella. She continued

Stella Part 3, Continued

dialysis, as well as doing everything exactly right. When you have a positive mental attitude and a deep spirituality, you just keep on, keepin' on.

On April 3, 2017 Stella was in the middle of her dialysis treatment and a nurse came up to her and said you have a call and handed her the telephone. It was the Gulf Coast Transplant Center letting her know they had a kidney for her.



I can only imagine the thoughts and emotions that were running through her head on the way home. Once home, she made all the important calls to family and friends, I'm not sure if she paid bills! Her family would make arrangements and fly in from all

over. Some would stay at her house while she was in the hospital. They would wait for her to come home. I refer to it as keeping the light on until you return.

At 9:00 that evening, her longtime, very good friends and neighbors, Pat and Tony Vervena took Stella to the hospital for surgery. The operation would begin at 2:00 a.m. on April 4th.

At 9:00 p.m. on the evening of April 4th a nurse gently woke Stella up. She could hear the soft voice of the nurse and when she finally opened her eyes she told her, "Good news, Stella. Your kidney woke up before you and is functionally perfectly!" Well comrades, there is a little bit of divine intervention going on here because normally after you have a kidney transplant you require dialysis for a few days to jump start the new kidney. Stella and I have both visited the Sistine Chapel in Rome and of all Michelangelo's frescoes the one that stands out the most, is the finger of God giving life to Adam. Perhaps he did the same thing to Stella's kidney. I'm going out on a limb here, but I think this is indeed what happened.

Stella has given her new kidney the name, Phoenix. I'm sure you can understand why. The Phoenix symbolizes renewal and long life.

She was in the hospital for seven days. Pat and Tony were there every day. Jadwiga took Doreen, Stella's sister who is visually impaired to the hospital every day so she could be near Stella. Doreen did not want to leave her side. Friends and family from all over the world were anxiously awaiting her return home. Because of the sterile environment Stella must be in until her immune system kicked in to gear, visitations were kept to a minimum and Stella and Phoenix needed to take it easy.

When she arrived back home, her sister Doreen came to stay with her as well as another friend Marina who would keep the condo sterile as well as cook and help Stella and Doreen in any way that they needed.

I have had the pleasure of making sure Stella

Stella Part 3, Continued

arrived at all her Dr. appointments and follow up visits. We have been the three amigos. What a joy to spend time with Stella and Doreen. Whether it was medical appointments, grocery shopping, trips to the drugstore or to the Apple store to get Stella's computer repaired. It was never a dull moment. Doreen would tell me stories about her and Stella growing up in Guyana while waiting for our patient. It would keep me laughing for days.

Stella is on the mend and doing fabulously. I choose to think she is "as good, as new!" Sometimes I look at her and think, what transplant?

There is nothing I wouldn't do for her or Doreen. My greatest gift from all this is when they told me, I was family. In the beginning we were familiar strangers, but that is not the case anymore. I'm feelin' the love of these sweet ladies.

The Beatles wrote a song about, "Getting by with a little help from my friends." This is surely true.

I'm going to close with part of another song they wrote:

***In the end the love you take, is equal to the love you make.
namaste***

And a note from Stella:

First, I must tell you that it has been my pleasure to work with Janey in this journey. She has done an excellent reporting job. Congratulations Janey! You have our collective thanks.

Second, I wish you to know that a diagnosis of kidney failure has long ceased to be a death sentence. From the first kidney implantation in 1954, medical science has made progressive strides. Take a stroll down the internet and you will be greeted with numerous kidney related sites offering medical updates, answering questions, offering nutritional advice and pointing you to support groups.

But it has been my experience that in order to achieve a better quality of life, all of this knowledge must be paired with self-discipline and a positive attitude.

If you or anyone dear to you would like to share in the benefits of my journey, I would be only too happy to do so. ~~ Stella



Stunned and Heartsick
by Marg Prozaki, A7 ~ Unit Owner

This is a picture of the Golden Rain Tree while in bloom last year in October and November. As you can see it is a stunning specimen.

Now here is the same tree after Mulligan's cut it yesterday. I use the term cut intentionally rather than prune.

In the interest of full disclosure Kate Buckley and I in 2016 spent many hours researching the use of an arborist for SG non palm/pine trees. In the end the BOD decided to use the lawn service.



I lead with the disclosure because what I am about to write is not a case of sour grapes. When you are in any situation where voting is involved, you win some, you lose some, and you move on. I have to admit I was worried though.

I am writing as an owner, not in the capacity of a BOD member. There is both a season and a proper way to prune trees which in addition to their beauty adds to the value of the property. Properly maintained landscaping including trees can add 20% to the value.

Improperly taking care of them can reduce the value by 100% of what you paid for the plants and trees.

There is a prevalent belief that trees recover quickly in Florida with all the rain we get. That is simply not true. What you are seeing is a stressed out tree rushing to make leaves to replenish its' food supply in an attempt to survive. These are substantially weak water sprouts. The tree becomes weaker not stronger. They grow very quickly. However, your strong, beautiful tree is most likely beginning a slow death spiral susceptible to disease never to bloom again in such splendor.

In the case of this tree you can see what they sawed off was the leader. This is growing straight up from the trunk. It is the anchor. It acts as the foundation. Just like a house, a tree must have a good foundation.

You do not saw limbs off. You prune branches near the collar to maintain the foundation. You can google pruning and find many authoritative pieces on the subject. You can also see pictures of how to prune not saw to maintain beautiful trees.

I realize not everyone is a tree person and could care less. I happen to love trees and plants. Hopefully after you read this you might look differently at the beautiful specimens on our grounds as you come and go. I am just sick about this. I was really looking forward to getting back to Florida in time to see it in bloom.



Tech In A Flash

***Matthew Rebstock & Bekki Shanklin
at your service!***

