



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

Volume 1, Issue 4

HOME OF THE GNOME!

April, 2016

I re-started the newsletter because I want the unit owners to have a place to share info, get to know each other, stay up to date on condo laws and alleviate apathy by fostering an environment where everyone feels they have a voice. So, please enjoy and be sure to SPEAK UP!!! ~ Bekki, Editor & Creator

The Life Cycle of a Project by Marg Prozaki

(CONTINUED FROM COLUMN 1)

A project to help beautify our common gardens was completed the week of March 21st. This could not have been accomplished without the help of all who live here. It began:



With the 2015 BOD...Janice C1, Richard D2, Johnie C5, Martin D5, Tim E6, and Steve F8. They began the discussion and started the research.

The 2016 BOD: Denise F1, Janice C1, Johnie C5, Alexis B3, Richard D2, Kate E2., John E5 and Marg A7 then continued with bidding the project and lining up

volunteers to keep costs down

Many unit owners pitched in to pick up, deliver, unload, and spread the pine straw and other unit owners participated by loaning tools, chipping in for gas and providing drinks and a barbeque of hamburgers and pasta salad capped off the event



And of course everyone who lives here helped by paying for the pine straw

*****Special thanks to: Kate Buckley E2 who was able to negotiate a wholesale price of \$3.00 a bale*****

To all other volunteers in no particular order:

Janey and Steve C7 ~ Kirk C8 ~ Bekki E4 ~ Mark B7 ~ Tim D7 ~ Terri F7 ~ Alexis B3 ~ Kate and Dennis

E2 ~ Art F6 ~ Janice and Ray C1 ~ Ann Palmer E8 ~ Stephanie ~***hope no one was left off***

A sincere apology goes to Ray and Janice Noble and Martin for the late invite to bq: mea culpa. Marg Prozaki (CONTINUED ON COLUMN 2)



*****And how much were we able to save by doing it ourselves? Check it out: \$575. So we'll be fixing stuff ourselves as often as we can.

What else did we do on our own? Steve Hesche fixed the Club House door so people who can't manage to pull it open easily.

See the back page, for the Bike Rack story! By doing all this on our own, we not only save maintenance money, "we are able to help keep our condo fees low, without having to 'hire' them out! Yay, US!!! *****



Our official Gnome Hibiscus, **The Cosmic Dancer**, purchased

at Riverland Nursery Garden Center

Address: 13005 Palm Beach Blvd,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

Phone:(239) 693-5555

<http://www.riverlandnursery.com/>



(239) 690-3037

Philly Cheese Steak Pizza

Basil's Pizza & Subs

4023 Palm Beach Blvd/ Fort Myers, FL 33916

They deliver to Seminole Gardens! Ali and Amar own the shop and they are fabulous and so is their food!!

Bek - The - Tech computer Info:

How to Switch from AOL to Gmail

There are many reasons to switch over to Gmail from AOL. AOL's internet is rather slow and it logs every keystroke you type. It allows what AOL wants you to have access to. Plus, the Instant Messaging feature can be accessed through the free AIM. Also if you are already using the internet, you don't have to open up a new program to see your email.

AND, AOL will bring many viruses (virii) into your computer that will cost you \$\$ to have removed.

AOL also won't allow you to go to websites you DO want to go to.. Truly 'big brother'.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Switch-from-AOL-to-Gmail>

I can't believe how many 'high end' businesses still use AOL as their email provider.. *I* certainly can't think of their hard-won businesses as being serious if they touting & running AOL for ANY reason.

Most use Microsoft Outlook or at LEAST Gmail. Come on out of the cave, peeps, and get rid of a company watching everything you do and not wanting you to do most of it! And so many of us are all paranoid.. We're allowing AOL into our WHOLE computer.. think about it..

Also remember if you have Century Link, Walmart, Comcast or ANY 'service provider emails from the company, if you stop paying,, are extremely late, change companies, etc, your emails are GONE!!!! Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo and the other free mails NEVER go away, even if you forget your passwords..



Computer maintenance: When to Defragment your hard drive

ONLY "defrag" if your Hard Drive is more than 15% fragmented.. otherwise, it WILL wear out your Hard Drive. New Hard Drives are so much larger and new computers both larger AND faster. BUT Hard Drives, both the 'old time' Spinners as well as the new Solid States only have certain lengths of life, depending on how you treat them.

You should run a scan or at least disk cleanup (found in your accessories file when you click on "all programs").

Next month we'll talk about the importance of ***backing up your computer***. Forensic Hard Drive recovery is VERY expensive if you've been lax about keeping up with it, WE can't be responsible for bringing you back everything you've lost by being casual and negligent. I can't tell you how many clients have been abusive to US at Tech in a Flash, because THEY forgot or didn't pay attention to saving what they were considering as "dear" to them.

PS, thanks to everyone who used my hints for new passwords from last month!!

Here is my blog on how to back up your stuff.. if you've saved it on your computer at all, there MUST be a reason for it.. don't lose it!

<http://bek-the-tech.blogspot.com/2015/11/be-sure-to-back-up-your-computer-and-why.html>

For those of you without computers

I will be adding recipes, etc where you will need a computer to click on it to get the information. (the technology will never go away, sort of like the toothpaste can't be put back into the tube, sorta..LOL) I have two suggestive thoughts on that:

1. Ask your neighbor or friend to see if they will bring it up and print it out for you.

2. If you need to use a computer to write an article on a computer rather than go to the library or write it out by hand so I can include it in my newsletters, I have a little one you can use to do that. At that point, I can copy it onto one of my computers so upload into my newsletters.

~*~*~

Check out my Tech Blog (Bek-the-tech) about what you need to know to keep you safe using your computer and dealing with the internet:

<http://bek-the-tech.blogspot.com/>

And to catch up on the theater reviews of each current production at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre and Herb Strauss Sanibel theatre, check out my Blog-O-Bek:

<http://theblogobek.blogspot.com/>

Enjoy and please drop me a note wanting to have answers to your tech questions and I'll make it a blog for you!

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Please NOTE: I'm Bekki in E4 and I create the monthly Newsletters (with lots of help from my Friends). You will be getting these emails because you reside in our Condo Family Area.

If at **ANY TIME** you decide you no longer want to receive this email Attachment, **PLEASE** click "reply" and state "**UNSUBSCRIBE**" in the subject line. Your address will be removed **IMMEDIATELY!**

And may Peace, support, respect for each other and our deep friendships never perish here. We are a small band of merry folk and have some wonderful neighbors here. There are also many who will find leaving their single family dwelling to co-reside with others sometimes hard.. Always know we are all here for each other .. unless we are **SOMEWHERE ELSE** for each other!



'And in the end, the love you get is equal to the love you give,' ~ Paul McCartney of Our beloved BEATLES

Can't we all just GET ALONG???

TO SPONSOR THE GARDEN GNOME NEWS

Every month's news is sponsored by **Tech in a Flash**.

www.techinaflash.net This April edition sponsored by **Steve and Janey Hesche and Basil's Pizza and Subs** (and they deliver to our complex!!)

If you would like to help defray the cost of monthly production of this newsletter, we will need your business card, perhaps a discount if the newsletter is mentioned or brought in with your advertisement in it. We would like a 'blurb' about your business, & a photo of the owner or the 'crew'.

We will also include your website.

If you have a FaceBook page, I will also feature it on my personal wall: Bekki.Shanklin, where I have 1800 friends & 1,000 followers on my twitter.

The donation? \$50 cash/check/paypal for the advertisement.

Paypal: bekkihere@gmail.com



click for lemon blueberry banana bread recipe!

http://www.jehancancook.com/2016/03/lemon-blueberry-granola-bread/?utm_source=P-1020&utm_medium=FB&utm_campaign=SocialFabric

For those without a computer, please ask a neighbor to show your and /or print out this great recipe!

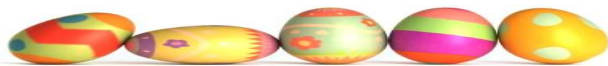


Currently we have **THREE** condos for sale: C2, C3, E6 and E7. Let's help get these puppies sold so we can get to meet wonderful new people!!

C2: https://www.coldwellbankerhomes.com/fl/fort-myers/431-van-buren-st-unit-c2/pid_11102053/

C3: <http://www.remax.com/realestatehomesforsale/431-van-buren-st-c3-fort-myers-fl-33916-id258982809.html>

E7: <http://www.trulia.com/property/3212898051-431-Van-Buren-St-E7-Fort-Myers-FL-33916>

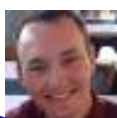


Phanny's Nails & Spa
 3398 Forum Boulevard,
 239.362.3538
www.phannynails.com
 Facebook: *phannynailspa*

Wonderful nail spa; spotlessly clean, friendly and inviting technicians, sterile tools, tubs with sanitary liners - everything you've wanted but couldn't find. Fresh citrus rub, salt scrub, hot rocks, hot towels, and the best pedicure I've had in a long long time. They also offer manicures, facial & body waxing, facials, eyelash extensions and massage. Very reasonable prices and not a long drive from Seminole Gardens. Take a friend and enjoy !!!

(From Kate Buckly, E2)

MENTION THIS AD AND GET 20% OFF YOUR NEXT VISIT!!! (PEDICURE ONLY!!)



Tech In A Flash
Matthew Rebstock & Bekki Shanklin at your service!



Most in our complex have eaten there..

AND they DELIVER!!!

Be sure to check them out.. right around the corner!!



COME JOIN US!

Most sunny days your fellow "Gardeners" gather at the umbrella table in front of "E" building to talk about their day, make future plans and get to know one another better. Please join in the fun. We bring our own beverages, snacks & maybe a folding chair. Sometimes on Friday nights we barbecue on the SG grill. It a great way to learn some of the history of our complex and the surrounding area, get referrals for repair & renovation, restaurant reviews and civic happenings. All are welcome - we want to know you better! Please join in the fun. ~ Alexis Linder



Fun Events in the Clubhouse!!!

8-Ball on Tuesdays, around the 6-7pm area (we need more players, ya'll! Maybe pick another night?)
Quilting and Crafts every Friday, most of the day
Poker on Saturdays, around the 6-7pm area

How about someone to teach us **shuffleboard**?
 Maybe in the fall we could get together **Scrabble, cribbage, backgammon, other games**? Gotta keep the old brain cells working don'tchya know?

Get to know your Neighbors!!

Please forgive my failure to put in where the Douglass's and O'Neill's live.. They are both in F building..

The New Kids on the Block

Steve And Janey Hesch, C7

Recently, (in the last 30 days) Seminole Garden Condominiums has added full time, year round residents, Steve and Janey Hesch along with their very black cat, Sebastian Balbo-Shrooms, esq.

They come from Michigan where the cold wind blows, the snow falls, the ice freezes and for a few months you get a glimpse of



Spring, Summer and Fall! (This is their version of Michigan!) Janey's roots begin in California where she was born and raised in the beautiful San Joaquin Valley of Central California in the small town of Visalia. She graduated from the College of the Sequoias and worked as grade III engineer for a telephone engineering contractor.

In the mid 70's she moved to Michigan. For 20 years she worked for Saranac Community Schools as a Title I Aide working with "at risk children." She was also a school bus driver, and yes, she ran a tight ship! After running in two half marathons in the last three years she has decided to just be a recreational runner and spend more time bicycling. She has also been a Yoga student for the last 30 years. Her passion is traveling.

Steve was born and raised in Saranac, Michigan, (population 1900ish)! For the past 30 years he has owned and operated his own auto repair business, Riverside Repair. He also drove a school bus for the district, (in a small town you multi-task!) This brings you up to how Steve met Janey and the rest is history! Between the two of them they have four children, Holly, Zachary, Lacey and Kalie and two granddaughters, Liyah and Jayce.

Their philosophy has always been to work hard and play hard, so they traveled a lot. Steve always insisted on vacationing where it was warm and there were palm trees and coconuts. After many, many cruises throughout the Caribbean they graduated to the all-inclusives in Jamaica, Mexico, etc.. and determined that Cozumel was their favorite island, oh wait, maybe Aruba and St. Lucia qualified as well! Janey had a wilder streak and made two trips to Europe to

visit the beautiful countries of England, France, Spain, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands. Over the years they spent lots of time in San Francisco, San Diego, Las Vegas and New Orleans (where they got married) but could never get enough time in Key West.

Ahh, Key West. That is where we wanted to spend the rest of our lives. Reality set in and we knew that it was just not in our budget. . . .

Last year in April, Steve was on Fort Myers Craigslist (who knows what compelled him to do so) and noticed that C7 was advertised for sale. This was on a Tuesday, we booked a flight on Wednesday, and Thursday flew down to take a look. The Cuban Laurel was the first thing we saw when walking onto the grounds. (Actually, I cannot tell a lie, Marg was the first thing we noticed, sitting outside in her housecoat enjoying the morning at the granite table. The grounds were beautiful and the condos with the old Florida feel immediately made us aware we had found "home." Bingo, we bought our condo on Friday.

The rest is history. In 11 months we sold our home, closed the business, sold some rental property and arrived to stay forever on February 27th. We have found our tropical paradise. Key West is a distant memory.

~*~*~



And check out the new bike rack that Steve and Janey personally bought and installed, thus saving the owners MORE money!! Also seen here is Mark in B7, who was also instrumental in purchase and installation! There is a GREAT fresh & new bunch of owners we now house on our 'hallowed' grounds! I so love our new peeps!!! (the old peeps are great too!!)

Cost Breakdown:

Bike Rack: \$136, shipping: \$136, 1 bag of cement: under \$5, installation and cost to owners other than Janey and Steve: Free! Thus the entire experience to owners ...

Priceless.

Don't forget every Tuesday from 1-2pm, a board member will be in the clubhouse to hear your complaints, suggestions, etc..Mostly they sit down there alone.. let's change that!

