

ESTERO COVE NEWS



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Jim Shaffer

A review of the audit of Estero Cove 2016 finances and of the 2017 1st quarter expenditures confirms that the financial condition of Estero Cove Condominium Association Inc. remains strong. The recent approval of the “pooling” method of accounting for Reserves will provide management with additional flexibility for protecting your investment. While our maintenance fee has increased to \$335 monthly, that amount remains lower than the fees of other comparable condos on the beach.

RENOVATING?????

Please remember that per our bylaws, owners must file a construction form in the office before any major unit repairs or renovations.

- ❖ Your vendors should remove their own debris, NOT dump it into our trash bins.
- ❖ Be sure that lanai tilers leave weep holes for storm water.
- ❖ Be considerate of your neighbors and the hours of loud jobs such as tiling.
- ❖ Be aware of how long elevators are tied up with deliveries and contractors.

April 2017

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By Lowell Spiess



I want to thank all the volunteers and committee members for their help and support for the board of directors this season. Thanks to you and the cooperation of all, we accomplished the following

- With owner approval, moved unused Windstorm Reserve funds to the tight Exterior Maintenance/Deferred Maintenance account.
- Rebuilt a fishing bridge in the back preserve area and planned for pier improvements next season.
- Approved results of a 30-year Reserves Study that validates 3 decades of savings and actions yet facilitates future Reserves budget planning for our aging facility.
- With an owner vote, changed the Reserves budget from a “Component Plan” to a “Pooling Reserve” accounting plan.
- Instituted a new pool policy: “No table games in pool area from 1/1 until 4/1.” This opens up poolside seating for those actually using the pool.
- Instituted a tennis/pickle ball/ shuffle board court-sharing schedule.
- Signed a new 7-year contract with COMCAST/Xfinity at a reduced rate -- including lower annual increases, a signing bonus and a complex-wide upgrade to high definition television in all units. See separate update.
- Completed the planting and new-growth watering and mulching of new hedges along the picnic area and entrance drive, thanks to the Landscape Committee and a \$5,000 donation from the Social Committee.
- Replaced the 4-yard garbage and recycling bins with 6-yard bins for the busy season, cleaning up areas that had a tendency to become cluttered.
- Received and enjoyed the start of a five-year improvement plan by the landscape committee, beginning with work on the north-side berm along Estero Blvd. See separate article.
- Approved an option for “Online Voting.”

I am disappointed in the lack of owner response on two board requests: “to use online voting” and “permission to send board information to you through email.” Assuming you did not want to vote online, you still can help the board save postage dollars and labor by agreeing to receive board business and condo updates by email. Changed your mind about one or both? Please call the office.

To those leaving our island at this time, safe travel back home. To all, enjoy the summer months and I anticipate seeing you next season.



Photo right: An unusual black & white bird of paradise bush behind Bldg. 2.

From the Landscape Committee --

By Chairperson Sue Hurley...

Committee members Judy Alderton, Sue Hurley, Ellen Knickle, Sharon Newsome, Mary Sebastian, and Lori VanBeek held many meetings this season. With input from the Board regarding the planned road work, it was decided to concentrate on the northern berm facing Estero Blvd. Approximately 40 plants were purchased, planted, mulched and watered by the committee members and our helpers: Nancy DiTroia, Gwen Spiess, Terry Stachelski, Joe Cermak, Bob VanBeek, Harry Barlow, Jim Nickle and Tom Hurley. Our Board is looking into prices to repair the irrigation on the CVS berm, as well as possibly add new irrigation to the center island, tennis court bed and the corner bed behind building two. We are hoping to establish a comprehensive five-year planting plan once construction on the road and irrigation is in place. In consideration of year-round beautification, maintenance and care, a procedure to control plantings in all areas of the property is being developed. This way, before a plant or tree is placed in a berm or bed, it is approved by the committee and the Board. Most importantly, we are praying for a good rain or two!!

WE OFTEN NEED ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS FOR COMMITTEES THAT RAMP UP THEIR WORK IN THE FALL. Want to volunteer? Email or call the president.

Need A Lease Template?

Check with Sue in the Office

Stop by our website www.esterocove.com often and be sure that Sue Fisher has an email address for you. Send notes to the Board or management via the website link OR use the Suggestion Box outside of the office

REGISTRATION - FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

You would want the EMTs to know where you are in case of an emergency, right?

It's the responsibility of **every owner, guest and renter** to register in the office when they arrive on property. You will receive car and bicycle tags as well as other important on-site information at that time. Please cooperate with this practice.

RULES & IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Rules, regulations and unit occupant tips protect us all. Some are state law; some are property courtesies. Please see the website or obtain a list of reminders from the office. Please leave a reminder copy in your unit for your guests and renters. The pool has its own rules posted on the pool side of the office wall -- again, some state laws (eg: diving in a pool of our depth or bringing drinks into the pool or onto the pool edge); others are condo rules (eg.: no smoking at the pool).

SOME CHRONIC ISSUES INCLUDE: NO PETS FOR GUESTS OR RENTERS. NO PARKING UNDER THE BUILDING FOR GUESTS OR RENTERS. SMOKERS, PLEASE USE RECEPTACLES PROVIDED THROUGHOUT THE PROPERTY. NO MOTORCYCLES OR OVERSIZED VEHICLES.

Let's Get Social!!

Please see the Estero Cove website and property bulletin boards when looking for updates on the Social Committee contacts, plans and schedules.

Welcome New Owners

- Unit 143 – Stacy & Rhonda Howard
- Unit 233 - Gil & Pat Costa
- Unit 256 - Karen & Martin Ventrone
- Unit 325 - Joe & Sylvia Duke
- Unit 416 - Sam Interrante
- Unit 422 - Tina Pietrus & Russell Doria
- Unit 443 - Al & Myra Pinto

IN MEMORY

Our condolences to the families of owners Nancy Darin, Dottie Gumb, Johann Harter, Marilyn Hicks and Marisa Morello who died this season. We also remember longtime renters George Ranus, Lou Benano and Carol Bannister.



Social Committee Season Update

By Bonnie Reynolds

Estero Cove is a unique community because of its many Social Committee projects and activities. Raising money isn't our major goal but funds raised are shared among our activities and property enhancements for our recreation and enjoyment. It takes many volunteers to ensure a busy and successful social season. We are very grateful to our many owners and renters who make everything happen.

Since 2016, we have supported:

- ❖ New plantings at the property entrance and patio area. \$5,000
- ❖ A bocce roller and ground cover. \$206.
- ❖ Pickle ball net and storage container. \$234
- ❖ Bridge repair materials. \$500
- ❖ New chairs for the pool and activities and domino sets. \$495
- ❖ Umbrella stands for the patio area. \$200
- ❖ Water aerobics equipment. \$55

Our funds are raised by providing:

- ❖ Four bocce lunches open to everyone.
- ❖ Share-the-Wealth drawings at activities.
- ❖ Weekly shirt and hat sales.
- ❖ Five dinners.
- ❖ Donations.

For the 2017/2018 season, we have planned:

- ❖ Four potluck dinners or brunches.
- ❖ Four bocce lunches.
- ❖ Catered barbecue with entertainment.
- ❖ St. Patrick's Day dinner.
- ❖ Two domino clinics and tournaments. bocce clinics and two tournaments.
- ❖ Two ladies lunches.
- ❖ Progressive cocktail party.

Additional activities are planned outside of the social committee.

For more information visit www.esterocove.com

COMCAST TELEVISION UPDATE

As agreed by your Board, we signed paperwork late January to enter into a new six-year contract providing bulk television to all units at Estero Cove. We were offered the contract for Feb. 1 and were told implementation might take as long as 90 days. We are sad to say there have been many snags to implement this contract on COMCAST's side and we are working hard to resolve those now.

The appealing features of the contract were buying us out of the final year of our current 7-year agreement (2017) while extending the agreement for 6 additional years (totaling 7), a significant signing bonus, a guarantee of a lower rate immediately and lower annual increases, some upgraded wiring and the addition of high definition service at no additional charge for all. We are committed to resolving the startup for this project. For now, we remain on the original contract but hope -- even if legal assistance is necessary -- to recoup all promised benefits retroactively. We will keep you posted.

CONTACT INFORMATION

**Office Phone: 239-765-5900. Manager's Emergency Phone: 239-898-2349 Fax 239-765-5901
esterocove6891@gmail.com Manager, Susan Fisher, CAM**

**This publication is periodically produced for owners by volunteers and the management of
Estero Cove.**

A copy of this and past issues are posted at www.esterocove.com

**Estero Cove Condominium
Association
6891 Estero Blvd.
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931**

■
[Recipient Name]
[Street Address]
[City, ST ZIP
Code]