

# Vines Community Association

## Newsletter

### June 2007

Summer greetings from the Vines Community Association. We hope you are enjoying your summer, wherever you are.

At the March board meeting the following were elected to the Vines Community Association Board.

|                  |                |                  |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Russ Rees        | President      | Southwind        |
| Faie Saunders    | Vice-President | Silver Oaks      |
| George DeAngelis |                | Vintage Trace    |
| Joe Henningsen   |                | Fairway Bend     |
| Skip Loper       |                | Lost Creek       |
| Bob Manz         |                | Grand Palm       |
| Jordan Ross      |                | Vintage Trace    |
| RW Collins       | Secy/Treasurer | Non-Board Member |

#### Board Meeting Note

During June through September the VCA Board will meet at **3:00 p.m. on the third Monday of the month** instead of the normal time of 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Monday of the month.

#### Security

The guardhouse Security would appreciate it if you would inform them of your summer departure and return. While you are away, they will watch your home for stray newspapers, loose tiles, irrigation systems running erratically or other items that may need attention. Your home watch service should be on the permanent guest list. You may call Security at 239-481-2640. Once again, we remind you to **drive 23 mph** while on the property, come to a **full Stop** at all Stop signs and be aware of golf carts and pedestrians. Do not let children drive your golf carts without an adult in the cart. Keep your garage doors closed as much as possible. The bar code system for the entrance is being worked on this summer. Shrubs have been lowered behind the gatehouse so that oncoming traffic will have a better view.

#### Perimeter Lighting

You may have noticed that there has been a change to the lighting along Vintage Trace Circle when you are approaching the railroad crossing from the entrance. The lighting committee has installed two trial bollard fixtures to evaluate their effectiveness and appearance. The committee is asking for resident input as to which of the lights they favor, or if you prefer the old style posts. Please contact your VCA representative or Jordan Ross or Chuck Freed with your opinion.

#### Landscaping

The ficus hedges that surround the Vines have been trimmed to their maximum height. Summer flowers have been planted and the landscape lighting is complete at the entrance. Palms will be trimmed before Thanksgiving.

#### Road Paving

The paving of a portion of Vintage Trace Circle will take place this summer. The area to receive new asphalt will be from the front gate to the cul de sac before the maintenance property. The country club will arrange for the final portion to the maintenance facility gate to be paved at the same time. This section of Vintage Trace Circle is being paved because it is the original pavement and has not been resurfaced since 1985. The final top was placed during development and is starting to come apart. The road around to the clubhouse and Grand Palm/Fairway Bend was repaved a few years ago because it had received so much construction traffic during the building of Southwind and that side of Vintage Trace Circle.

## **Website**

We are using e-mail to improve the timeliness of our communication with our residents. If you did not get an e-mail allowing you to vote on the proposed US 41/Vines intersection change, then we do not have your e-mail address. To add your e-mail address to our mailing list, go to [www.thevinesca.com](http://www.thevinesca.com), select your neighborhood from the drop down list, fill out the "Mailing List" information at the bottom of the page and press the "Submit" button. If you did get the e-mail but do not wish to receive communications from us in this manner, send an e-mail to that effect to [secretary@thevinesca.com](mailto:secretary@thevinesca.com) and your e-mail address will be removed from our list. Our privacy policy is that we only allow our e-mail lists to be used by the VCA Board (or neighborhood board) to communicate with our residents. If you wish to communicate with the board, you may send an e-mail to [theboard@thevinesca.com](mailto:theboard@thevinesca.com). The website is becoming our most popular way to keep our residents informed. Please use it for dates, agendas and minutes of the VCA meetings. Our Rules and Regulations are posted there also; if you have a doubt about some matter, check here first and if not sure, contact a board member.

## **Hurricane Preparedness**

We have a newly formed Hurricane Preparedness Committee. This committee along with ECC is gathering information to assist the community in case of an emergency. This will include pre, during and post emergency suggestions. We will post all new information on the website and in local neighborhoods. Additionally, in order to encourage all Vines residents to be prepared in advance of a hurricane, the VCA is making copies of Lee County's "**Make Your Own Family Hurricane Plan**" document available to Vines residents. You may pick one up at either the Estero Country Club or at the Vines gatehouse. The document may also be accessed at [www.leeecoc.com](http://www.leeecoc.com), click on Library and then on "2007 Family Hurricane Plan" and download the document. Further information may be found on our website.

## **Lake Bank Erosion**

Bruce Bach, Golf Course Superintendent has written an article about our lake banks. A short version follows.

"I believe the majority of erosion occurs when lake levels are low, and a lot of bare dirt is exposed when the heavy summer rains occur.

One somewhat successful planting experiment took place on holes number 8 and 17. In the low lying areas that get submerged, Soft Rush "juncus effuses" has done well. In the higher areas that stay mostly dry, sand cord grass "spartina bakeri" is doing well. There are several other "grassy" type plants that I intend to experiment with—emphasis on **experiment**. This area of the banks is called the littoral zone. Already, some grassy plants are visible in this zone. As this vegetation grows, some will undoubtedly become undesirable and we will remove it in favor of other more desirable plants. Perhaps this will be an ongoing experiment. It is my hope that this experiment, if deemed successful, will at least delay the need to rebuild lake banks and dredge lakes. This vegetation will provide habitat for many critters and also serve as a buffer between our highly maintained lawns and golf course and the lake system. These plants can potentially catch and use any fertilizer run-off that may occur as well as grass clippings which would otherwise go deep into the lake. Once again, this is an experiment; feel free to bring comments and suggestions to the Greens Committee or your VCA representative."

Bruce Bach

## **Real Estate Signs**

Earlier this year an abundance of real estate Open House signs were placed at the front entrance and inside the gate. We ask that one OPEN HOUSE sign be used. We understand the tough job the realtors currently have; however, more signs do not bring in more people.

## **In Memoriam**

The VCA extends its sympathy to the families of **Dave Farrell, Robert Gleason and Bernard Magirl**, all who passed away recently.

If you would like your family member's passing to be acknowledged by the VCA, please contact your neighborhood representative.