

# Vines Community Association

## Newsletter December 2007

### **Christmas Lighting/Landscaping**

Joe Henningsen, our landscape chairman, has had his elves busy putting up the Christmas lights at the front entrance. These and the bridge lighting will be turned on just after Thanksgiving and remain lit until January 31.

Palms and ficus hedges around the community will be trimmed before Thanksgiving. Mulch will go down after the trimming. In order to conserve water, five rain sensors have been installed on the sprinkler system along Vintage Trace Circle.

### **Railroad**

We have stated this before, but must emphasize the importance of respecting the railroad crossing. If the Seminole Gulf railway personnel decide that we are not stopping at the crossing, they may choose to put up lights and crossing arms **AT OUR EXPENSE!** This could cost the Vines community upwards of \$200,000. Please, don't be the one that costs us the convenience of no gates. The crossing is scheduled for repair in the next few months. When this is done, speed bumps will be added to remind you of the importance of **STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN**. We've trimmed the shrubbery down so that both we and the train can see oncoming traffic, but this also makes it a temptation to roll on over the tracks. You be the one to show your neighbors the correct way to go over these tracks. Stop, Look, Listen and thank you.

### **Mailboxes**

The VCA is aware of the damage to the finish on some of the mailboxes, particularly on Vintage Trace Circle. Evidently, something went wrong in the paint process. Trutwin Custom Signs will replace every box that they find in this bad condition. They are at least two weeks behind on their service schedule, so please be patient; the job **will** be done to our satisfaction. They will remove and replace boxes about five to ten at a time. If, in the next 60-90 days, you do not see your box getting attention, please feel free to call Lisa at Trutwin at 489-3521. Once your mailbox is in tip-top shape, a little TLC is helpful. Wash down the box and post with a car wash/wax product about twice a year. This will clean and polish it up "like new".

### **Perimeter Lighting**

There are sample street lights installed on Vintage Trace Circle just before the railroad tracks on both sides of the street. One light shines "out" and one shines "down". Please take a look at these lights in the evening and choose

your favorite. This lighting project is in our future planning. At some time the committee will be asking you your preference.

### **Security**

It appears that the bar code system is working well. November 15 is the final day that the “clickers” will work. If you have a rental car or have renters at your home for a period of time, please stop at the gatehouse for special instructions. We plan on a brightly colored DASH PASS that the guard will recognize from either entrance gate, residents or guests. When driving past the bar code reader, be at least within 5 feet of the reader and drive slowly. When you leave the Vines for any extended period of time, please let the guardhouse know by calling 239-481-2640. There have been a few incidents, where a garage door has been open for more than a day; the sheriff’s office had to be called to enter the home to check to see if all was well. As it turned out, the family had gone away for the weekend. The Rover goes out each evening from 10 to 11 pm. to check for open garage doors and other security measures. They may call you as late as 11 pm. if your garage door is open. This is a courtesy and not meant to be an annoyance. If you are entertaining a large crowd with many cars, please be aware that emergency vehicles still need to be able to negotiate the streets. There are regulations regarding a **fire hydrant** on your property. Shrubbery must be clear 4 feet behind and 7 ½ feet on the sides and visibly clear from the street. The fire department periodically checks The Vines and violators could be fined. Lastly, if you leave a vehicle outside at night, please be sure it is locked.