

Southporter



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Out and About in the Neighborhood

As the summer heat bears down on all of us. Most conversations begin with "Another beautiful day, but a little too hot , don't you think?" Then again, think of snow, rain, cold, cloudy damp days up North and be thankful to live in paradise.

The beach and it's breezes provide a soothing effect on Southport and residents therein. It is almost always five degrees cooler when you top that small bridge on Bonita Beach Road heading home.

With the traffic back to being reasonable once again, and sales banners

fronting most storefront windows, locals are taking advantage of available and abundant bargains. Two for one coupons frequent pages in the local papers or come unsolicited with the mail. Eye catching ads abound, each trying to draw us out to popular

Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself.

but empty area restaurants and eateries. Most are feeling the change in Season where it hurts most, the pocketbook. Some things never change however, like the "Royal Scoop" . It has a cult following and the same great appeal year around. The biggest decision that confronts you is,

what flavor to pick?. What is better than a double dip on a warm summer eve?

Suntans identify who is local and who is visiting and while our youth have "pale" school year tans, that is about to change with a summer vacation full of fishing, basketball and lazy days at the beach.

Look for more changes upon your return. The neighbors are painting and planting and busy with alterations.

Our security system is working as advertised and we have identified both culprits who broke the gate this year.

NOTICE

No Board Meeting

June

July Meeting

17th

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Legal Update

This section was removed for sensitivity reasons. As you probably know, our legal committee is in the process of negotiating a settlement with the Master Association.

Reflections

Tom Leonard

Some of you may not have been here two years ago when the tail end of a hurricane came ashore. We called it tropical storm "Gabrielle"

This picture was taken the morning after the south end of the down-graded storm hit Barefoot Beach. The street underwater is St. Felipe and moving liquid was pouring under our car and over Barefoot Beach road and into the bay.

We were lucky and thankful that we only caught the surge of a bigger storm. Mother Nature offered us a glimpse of what she can do with five foot high waves



and counter rotating winds. The eye of the storm traveled north of Collier county. High water and debris did enter into the front gate area of Southport. The rising bay waters and boats floating off their docks, made us very nervous for several

days. The second picture is looking to the left over the Garden boat docks fronting Barefoot Beach Road.

Southport homes can be seen in the background. Recently, newspapers and the TV news reports bombard us with tornado information. Last week an

insurance renewal notice made me realize we are approaching Hurricane season once again. **"Be Prepared"** used to be the Boy Scout marching song. In Florida we are approaching the other windy season. One we are not thrilled to see arrive. Are you Prepared? Have you made plans just in case?



Keeping Southport Looking Good !!

Paul Leck

Landscaping and Maintenance:

The most critical aspects of any development are Landscaping and Maintenance. Although we may take for granted the beauty of "Southport on the Bay", very few of us stop to think about the many details that go into preserving our idyllic setting.

The public areas must be mowed and the shrubs trimmed on a constant basis. Flowers and plants are changed on a seasonal schedule to either maintain their health or to add to the already existing beauty of our area.

Twice a year over 150 palm trees are trimmed. When required, specialists are called in to control disease, growth, or other factors that damage our Environment.

Last year we were able to establish two beautiful preserves. They have been a big plus to the community. Our thanks go out to those people who have accepted the responsibility of providing a water supply for them!

Street lamps are a recurring maintenance problem. Right now we have a mixture of both yellow and white

lamps. We are working towards correcting this problem in the very near future by reverting to all yellow bulbs, a change that will be welcomed by many.

We just completed installing new floodlights on the entranceway. Hopefully this will stop the many problems that were encountered under the old system. All wires have now been placed in conduits. Each lamp has a receptacle for special lighting at holiday time and angle adjustments are simple.

The list goes on. We recently obtained a permit from the State of Florida to stock a certain type of 'vegetation eating' fish in our lakes, a special species of Carp. They do not multiply and are supposed to devour the algae and torpedo grass.

Oops! I almost forgot Irrigation, without which we would really be lost.

Eight different areas require watering to take care of our entranceway, flower beds, and the beautiful preserves. We all know what happens if we don't water.

All of us are interested in maintaining the value of our property either for enjoyment or for selling purposes. In this regard, we have spoken to several professionals regarding our overall appearance, particularly our entranceway. The consensus is

that we are "outdated" for a community of million dollar plus homes.

Although many improvements were made in the past year, more remain to be done, particularly in the front entrance area. We are currently working with a professional landscape architect to determine what steps should be taken to improve our appearance and protect the value of our properties.

I have outlined the duties of only one board member. If you add the responsibilities of the other four you will appreciate the amount of time and devotion these volunteers give to their assignment. Following up on all of these tasks comes close to a full time job. Rarely does a day pass that a call is not received from one of the tradesmen regarding one or more of these problem areas.

Please remember that your board members are all volunteers who give heavily of their time to accept this responsibility. You can help them by your cooperation in following the basic rules that keep our community attractive, your participation in meetings, and your patience.

A FIGHTER AMONG US.

Carol Rocha is a fighter. Not too long ago Carol related a story that is the type you might read in something like Reader's Digest, or similar. It was so interesting that I found myself saying Really? No Kidding! Are you for real?, Wow!, and a few non printable adjectives.

She was attacked, in broad daylight and she ended up the winner.

As Carol told me the story she was never interested in what had happened to her, but that we get the word out to the neighbors so you all would be aware, and with knowledge, watchful of your position and your situation.

Carol was shopping at the Publix up on Bonita Beach Road. It was fairly early and she was trying to beat the crowd. As she departed

the store she wheeled her cart to the rear of her automobile and opened the trunk. She proceeded to load her groceries and a young male about twenty years of age, snatched her purse and told her to be quiet and not make a fuss. Wrong. Carol grabbed her purse, and proceeded to make it clear she would not be a victim. Although knocked off her feet in the struggle she defended herself and the assailant, knowing attention was focused on this struggle put his feet in second gear and departed Carol's position. A few citizens detained the young man and someone else alerted the police. One theft averted and one thief bagged and booked. Carol was not

seriously injured, just a little bruised, but the adrenalin was flowing and I could tell by the determination in her eye that she was not going to be intimidated. Carol suggested a few thoughts.

Look at the chart and say the **COLOUR** not the word

YELLOW	BLUE	ORANGE
BLACK	RED	GREEN
PURPLE	YELLOW	RED
ORANGE	GREEN	BLACK
BLUE	RED	PURPLE
GREEN	BLUE	ORANGE

Left - Right Conflict
Your right brain tries to say the colour but your left brain insists on reading the word.

Look around as you leave a public place. Think about where you park and what it's going to be like when you return, given the time of the day. Open the car door first and lock your purse inside before you attend to your

packages or load the trunk.

Like most situations in life, don't place yourself in an indefensible position.

Burglary in our midst.

Last Saturday, most likely between the hours of 5:30 and 11 PM our neighborhood was violated. Putting together the story from several neighbors, their homes were entered and possessions rifled through. The McCain's lost jewelry. The house next door was reconnoitered and the screen to the Lanai was breached. We felt our own home had been entered and a neighbor across the street in the Gardens told me of his lanai screen being cut but luckily his house never entered due to security locking systems.



For whatever it's worth, upon our return home at approximately 1045 to 11 PM my wife and I witnessed a white panel van leaving our gate as we came in the entry side. For a brief moment we noted that there were markings on the side (printing) but very small and undistinguishable in the dim lighting of the gate area. My wife remarked at the time that seeing a work vehicle this late at night was certainly questionable, but stranger things have happened. That was Saturday night.

On Sunday, my wife remarked that she felt some items had been moved in her storage closet and her female intuition said someone had been in the house. I never discount her feelings. All too often I find her being right on target, but did not dwell on that scenario until I

I am relating the above because it requires all of us being alert to strangers in our neighborhood.

Presidents Message:

learned of the McCain's home being burglarized.

Putting all the puzzle pieces together caused me to ask for our security tapes to be reviewed. We were too late as the timer had been set to record 48 hours on a continuous basis and would be enough to catch gate breakers. But that short period had expired and we could not look back for the license plate of that truck.

So, I am asking you to search your memory bank. Did you have a guest or emergency workman in a white van in the Southport after hours? Did you see or happen to record anything unusual on Saturday 17th?

Sadly, we can no longer say our neighborhood is as safe and secure as we would like and we will have to take private action.

Finally, we are going to have a fountain installed in the first lake. Funded privately by the neighbors who surround lake one, this project will become a reality soon.

Installation has been **completed** for a Memorial Day Celebration.

As we enter our neighborhood, this fountain will greet neighbors and friends as they look behind the lighted palm trees near our entryway.

The following is a list of Major Contributors who live around or near the lake:

- George and Laura Joeckel**
- Dr. Rashal Patel**
- Thomas O'Brien**
- Dave and Debbie Douglas**
- Frank and Marian Deluca**
- Bob and Peggy Borg**
- Chris and Aura Hawley**
- Jan and Barbara Visser**
- Tom and Linda Leonard.**



The fountain is called a Clover Big Shot and will reach heights of twenty feet and cascade down on a lighted ring of smaller plumes.

We hope it makes a major contribution to the property values within our neighborhood.

Sedentary Lifestyle

If you're not getting any exercise you're practically begging for osteoporosis.

Bones involved in any physical activity are strengthened.

Conversely, when bones are not involved in physical activity they weaken dramatically.

This is demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt by the substantial bone loss experienced by the astronauts, even on short space missions.

Due to weightlessness, their bone loss is alarmingly accelerated. As a noted researcher pointed out.

"nature does not waste resources building bone that is not required to support weight."

Fortunately, weight bearing exercise as simple as taking a walk on the beach or thru the neighborhood will help tremendously.

"Try and fail, but don't fail to try."

Additionally, and certainly not to be overlooked are some neighbors who continually support worthy projects with both their time and money.

These folks have made One Hundred Dollar contributions to the Southport's Fountain Support Fund to help with installation, maintenance and future electrical bills.

Pam and Paul Leck

Kim and John Scola

If you personally wish to contribute a monetary donation toward this fund it would certainly be most welcomed and appreciated.

Please give or send your contribution to Dave Douglas or Tom Leonard who are heading up this project.

91 Southport Cove or 207 Topanga Drive

**"ENJOY"
THANK YOU**

***"I cannot give you the formula for success, but I can give you the formula for failure --
try to please everybody"***

"Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them."

Welcome Wagon

Our newest neighbors are Chris, Aura and six month old Logan Hawley. Stop, wave, and please say hello to this fine young couple soon.

The Hawley's are deep in the process of renovating **211 Topanga Drive**. This young couple originally from "Up North", moved to Florida in the mid nineties.

The beautiful flower beds certainly speak for themselves and show they really care about the neighborhood. Lets get them involved.

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