



The Stagecoach Express

Newsletter of Stagecoach POA

Vol. 6, No. 4 – Jul. / Aug. - 2008

Stagecoach Information

Web site address ---- www.stagecoachfl.org

Recreation Center -- 991-9821

3632 Mossy Oak, Land O Lakes, FL 34639

Board President : Robert Carpenter

Board Members :

Anne Cameron - Michael Cien – Brian Troutman-

Mary Cluck- Mitchell Poulson – Ken Koran

From the Board President

Summer and the Hurricane Season

I find it hard to believe that summer is here and we are into July already. It seems like just yesterday we were taking down and stowing away the Christmas decorations. With summer comes, yes, hurricane season. This is the perfect time to check your emergency supplies, take inventory, have a plan, and plan an evacuation route if the worst happens. If you hope for the best and plan for the worst, you will always be prepared.

Improvements in the Park

Even though the year is only half over, it has been a busy one. You may have noticed some changes happening especially around the park area. We have added lights on the interior circle of the park to increase lighting in that area. It not only improves safety in the park area, but I personally think it looks great. I have noticed more people walking around the park during the evening hours. We are also in the process of adding three benches in the park. These should be installed soon and will add a certain "parkliness" to the area. (Yes, I just made that word up). We have also upgraded our security system, which greatly improves our capabilities to record events that occur and better identify the persons involved. This was not an inexpensive undertaking, but given past circumstances, the Board felt it was an investment well worth the cost.

Feeding the Squirrels in the Park is a Hazard

Lately, I have been receiving several complaints about people feeding the squirrels in the park. As it may not seem like such a bad thing, it actually can be and is not the wise thing to do. Not only does it take away from their natural ability to gather food, it changes their personalities. They lose their fear of people and become more aggressive (as can be attested by many that walk the park). They will actually come right up to people and pets looking to be fed. Yes, they are cute and fun to watch, but think of it this way. It is as wild of an animal as an alligator, and you wouldn't feed an alligator would

you?? If you think we need to feed God's creatures, He has provided them with plenty of acorns from the oak trees in the park. So, please stop feeding them. **(See the suggestions from the Humane Society of the USA on p. 3)**

Fining Committee Resumes Regular Meetings

The Fining Committee is back in action and held their first meeting in June. **Subsequent meetings are scheduled for July 14, Aug.11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, and Dec. 8.** Thank you to Harold Soskin who agreed to chair the committee. I also personally thank each member of the committee for volunteering to serve in this capacity. Having to make the determination if a fine is imposed for a given violation, can not be an easy task. Your willingness to take on this task shows your dedication to serve this community.

There are many other volunteers in this community as well. I'd personally like to thank The ACC, the Board of Directors, this Newsletter Staff, those who plan children's activities and many others. Thank you all for your commitment to make our community what it is.

Enjoy the summer and have a Happy Fourth of July!

Robert Carpenter President
Stagecoach HOA

COMMUNITY NEWS

Crime Watch

More Safety Reminders

Just when you think it is safe around your home, you learn that someone is roaming and prowling the neighborhood overnight trying to find unlocked vehicles. **Remember: 1) to lock your vehicle, 2) don't keep anything of value in it, and 3) remember that your garage door opener gives access to your home.**



Please be aware of what is going on around you in Stagecoach. If you see a vehicle in the Rec Center parking lot, after the Rec. Center is closed and it is not a Security Patrol vehicle, then it probably doesn't belong there. Call the Sheriff. We have had "auto break-ins" in Stagecoach. If you notice something that doesn't seem quite right, call the Sheriff. If your call stops a crime, that is one for the "good guys".

If you notice any suspicious activity in the neighborhood, please call the Pasco Sheriff's Office and report the

activity. The Sheriff's Deputies are very busy with various calls which are prioritized by the seriousness of the incident. Some incidents are investigated immediately others are reviewed when time is available. Often repeated reports of a similar incident can change the priority of the investigation. Please take the time to report suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office. **The non-emergency number is 929-1204, but of course, if it is an emergency call 911.**

Security Patrol Receives Sheriff's Award

The Stagecoach Security Patrol met on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 7:00 PM, in the Recreation Center. All Stagecoach residents had been invited to attend our meeting and to listen to the Sheriff Bob White's presentation. The Sheriff presented the Stagecoach Security Patrol with a Certificate of Appreciation for the work that the Security Patrol volunteers have provided since May 2001. It has been framed and hangs on the wall in the Recreation Center if you would like to see it. The presentation by Bob White was excellent! We had the opportunity to ask questions and to personally meet and speak to the Sheriff and his team. (See photos)

Events at the Pasco Citizens Poice Academy

I would like to make you aware of some events that are up and coming from the Pasco County Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association. The Citizen Police Academy of the Pasco Sheriff's Office is an exciting 5 ½ week program that provides participants with an up-close and detailed look at the Pasco Sheriff's Office and modern law enforcement. The Citizen Police Academy meets twice a week for 5 ½ weeks. Fun and exciting hands-on learning is also part of the Citizen Police Academy experience. The next class begins Tuesday, July 8th from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday with graduation on August 12, 2008. The class will be held at the Jasmine Lakes Civic Association, 7137 Jasmine Blvd. New Port Richey, FL. To enroll call Cprl. Dan Dede at (727)837-3239 or Vicki Balmer at (727)856-7874. (Applications can be completed over the telephone or mailed to you.) This is free to participants!

Proper Disposal of Old Medications

There will also be a "PILL DROP" Saturday, August 23, 2008 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm in front of the Gulfview Square Mall at Hwy 19 and Embassy Blvd. Drop off your old medications, pills, liquids and needles. Don't flush them down the toilet! Don't leave them hanging around the house. No questions asked, they will be disposed of properly.

Sheriff's Website

Don't forget to view the Sheriff's new website, there is valuable and interesting information posted there. <http://www.pascosheriff.com/webapps/index.pgm> Just about anything you might want to know about what is going on in Pasco law enforcement.

Thank you for your support!
Craig Cameron, Security Patrol Coordinator



Youths Create Problems at the Ponds

Parents/Homeowners BE AWARE that teen boys have been seen coaxing alligators with food, taunting them with fish hooks, and hitting them with baseball bats while the alligators are lying near the retention ponds. This behavior is not only inhumane; it is stupid and dangerous as it makes them aggressive, especially now as they are nesting and they are very protective of their young (as all parents are).

Also, while we are addressing the retention ponds, it has been witnessed that pre-teens are playing on the retention baffles that keep the trash from getting into the ponds. The pond on Golden Eagle, behind the second Cottonwood, reflects the damage that will need repairs which are costly.

REMEMBER the cost comes out of your ASSESSMENTS. So, if you witness this activity, report it to the Pasco Sheriff's office.



To Feed or Not to Feed Squirrels in Our Park

The following information is cited from the website of the Humane Society of the United States regarding the feeding of any wild animal. This portion addresses specifically the feeding of squirrels in public places (parks, buildings, etc.).

To Feed or Not to Feed Wildlife? | The Humane Society of the United States



To Feed or Not to Feed Wildlife?

Whether you encounter wildlife in your own backyard, a local park, or while vacationing in a far-off locale, remember that feeding wild animals-no matter how cute or hungry they seem- can often result in more harm than good. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) opposes the feeding of wildlife when this activity places wildlife at risk. While coaxing a wild animal into close proximity with tidbits from your picnic or backyard barbecue may seem harmless enough, the long-term consequences of those actions are often disastrous-for both animals and people



When animals learn that humans can provide an easy food source, they often lose their natural fear of humans. The HSUS is particularly concerned about feeding that habituates large, potentially dangerous animals to human habitation and presence. Once wild animals learn that they can boldly forage for human food, conflicts, nuisance behavior, and risks to human safety are sure to occur.

Animals who become dependent on human food sources may gather in abnormally large numbers, thereby aiding the spread of disease. Unnatural crowding and competition may result when wild animals gather together for food handouts from people. Such stressful conditions increase the incidence of fighting and injury among animals, as well as help the spread of diseases, some of which may be transmitted to pets and humans.

Squirrels look remarkably cute when they sit up and beg like your pet dog, which they do often at any place you'll find a lot of people hanging around. People become entranced, perhaps feeling like they're communing with nature, and willingly feed the creatures. **What they don't realize is that squirrels are just rodents with fluffy tails!** Being a rodent, they carry the same diseases, including bubonic plague. (a deadly bacteria)

Whether or not you feed them, they often bite- yes, even the hand that feeds them! Don't be misguided into thinking that squirrels feel any affection towards you!

They simply know that people carry food, and that's ALL that matters to them.

Don't feed the animals! You are not doing them any good. You are taking unnecessary risks with your health and safety. You are ultimately causing the need to have the animals destroyed when they become too aggressive.

Let Your Voice Be Heard.....VOTE!!!!!!!

Brian E. Corley, Pasco County Supervisor of Elections, has on his web site "**Freedom Requires Responsibility**". Everyone should vote in the **primary Aug. 26th** and **general election Nov. 4th**. **With early voting, absentee voting, and Election Day voting there is no excuse not to vote.**



On the voter registration card mailed to you, verify your name, current address, and party affiliation. If not received, or not correct, have it corrected before July 28th in order to vote in the Aug. 26th primary.

ALL voters must provide ID containing their photo and signature, such as a driver's license or state ID card. The voter registration card is NOT an acceptable form of identification.

Early voting starts Monday, August 11th until Sat., Aug. 23rd. Wesley Chapel and Land O'Lakes Offices are the closest locations to Stagecoach. Early voting can be done at any Pasco County Election Office open for early voting. On Election Day, you can **ONLY** vote at the precinct assigned for your current home address.

Mail in ballots can be requested now for the primary and general election. Call (800) 851-8754

The Optical Scan Voting System will be used in both elections and demonstrations can be seen on line and at several locations including the Land O'Lakes Library on selected dates.

With so many opportunities to vote, there is no excuse for anyone not to voice his/her opinion. See www.pascovotes.com or call (813) 929-1288 **Land O'Lakes Election Office.**

Management & Associates (M&A)
Joan Fissella, Manager (813) 433-2009
720 Brooker Creek Blvd. Oldsmar, FL

**Save
These
Important
Dates**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Two New Activities

Adults Only Swim Time

For adults who have asked for an "Adults Only" swim time in the community pool, the Board of Directors approved a **weekly swim time every Wednesday from 6:00 pm-9:00 pm** during the months of July, August, and September. **The first "adults only swim time" will be on July 2.** No children under 18 years old will be able to go into the large pool. Stagecoach and Sanra Fe adults, this is the opportunity you have wanted, so take advantage of it. See you at the pool.



Stagecoach to Start Water Aerobics

There has been some interest in having a water aerobics class at the community pool. A Board member found Ryan Pryor, a certified personal trainer and director at *Escapades Fitness Spa*. He has agreed to conduct the sessions for us. **The first class session will be on Wednesday July 2 at 10:00 am at the community pool.** Each weekly 45-minute session will cost \$5 per person. If you have friends in Santa Fe, they are also invited to participate. Ryan welcomes "a pay as you go" payment plan and he will accept cash or personal checks.

These sessions will be held at a section of the pool during regular pool hours, therefore other people/children will be in the pool. **Be advised that the water aerobics are for ADULTS ONLY and no children will be allowed in the section of the pool where the adults will be exercising.** If you are interested in joining the group for some fun and exercise, contact Anne Cameron at 994-0014 no later than July 1st.



Happy Birthday USA July 4th

STAGECOACH "50 + GROUP" SOCIAL MEETING

Our trip to Los Vallartas was attended by eight of us and it seemed that we all enjoyed the food and the company. Our next get together will be Thursday evening, September 18 at the Rec Center at 7:30 pm. We will have a pot of coffee and would appreciate all attendees bringing a dessert. At that time, we will decide the program for the year going forward. If anyone needs any additional information, they can contact me, Harold Soskin, at the following number 813-929-3233. We hope to see some new faces in September. Regards to all for a good summer.



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