



The Gulf View

President's Report

By Linda Sussman

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The weather here has been just lovely and I see more and more people out enjoying the benches and grassy strip between Pierce Road and the ponds on the west side of Gulf View Estates. While this area is an integral part of our development, it is not owned by us. It is part of the Pennington Place property.

From the beginnings of GVE in the 1980s the Homeowners Association was under the presumption that we controlled the property. But when the Pennington Place development was being discovered that the developer had discovered that the development ponds. The flowing water vent flooding and allow akka River and eventually everyone, but there was

Should the Board pursue the possibility of assuming control of the fountains belonging to Pennington Place?

What the Board did attempt to get the two fountains on stalled and operational by

required to maintain the natural vegetation on their side of the ponds. However it did not prevent them from removing the pepper trees as invasive. We have also found that the fountains are often turned off or only operational for a very limited time.

The grassy strip on our side of the pond has always been maintained by GVE and rather than let the strip become wild and unsightly, it was decided that GVE would continue to maintain it as we have since the beginning and to add the benches. Now the Board is considering asking Pennington Place to give us control of the fountains. So far we have only made informal inquiries and have not had any response from them.

Even if Pennington Place were responsive to our request there are still many considerations. When we bring their attention to the fact that the fountains are not on they often say they are waiting for parts or repairs. So we do not really know the condition of the fountains. Another issue is that the controls for the fountains are on the far side of the ponds and we would want to move them to our side.

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Thought for the Day

“Responsibility does not only lie with the leaders of our countries, or with those who have been appointed or elected to do a particular job. Peace, for example, starts within each one of us. When we have inner peace, we can be at peace with those around us.”

~ ~ The Dalai Lama

2017 Board of Directors		
President	Linda Sussman	408-9486
V. President	Jim Henry	492-9792
Secretary	Bonnie McGuigan	375-8597
Treasurer	Fred Noren	882-4543
Directors	Rich Delco	493-5266
	Ed Kowalski	493-5584
	Jim Gillespie	497-7934
Architectural Review	Rich Delco	493-5266
Security Patrol	Tina Glover	617-899-5149
Events/Social		
Street Capt. Coord.	John Canon	496-7903

President continued

One of the first steps the Board must consider if we get Pennington Place permission is asking Lang Irrigation to evaluate the current condition of the fountains and if there would be a cost to bring them up to full working order. Lang did give us an estimate of \$1,200 to move the fountains; but that could change after they get permission to evaluate what is currently there.

If we get permission from Pennington and decide to go forward with taking over the fountains then we must consider the ongoing cost. Based on the two fountains we do own by the entrance we would estimate an additional \$3,000 - \$4,000 per year.

So much of this is hypothetical but I thought residents would like to know what the board is thinking and how residents would consider us even going down this road or should we just keep badgering Pennington Place and the county.

What’s Your Rush, Speeder?

By Angela Theriault

Lately there has been a noticeable increase in cars speeding in our community. The most obvious is Roosevelt Drive, followed closely by Pierce Drive. What is so important as to risk the possibility of injury to a man, woman, child or one of our four legged friends? There are many who walk their dogs or just want to spend time walking through our beautiful

community to get a little exercise. Many have told me they always have to be on the lookout for the uncaring drivers who speed by, coming all too close as they pass.

The community is changing and we have many more children who use the roads riding bicycles or scooters. In their innocence, they are unaware of the danger posed by that speeding car or truck that navigates our streets each day. We all have to be extra careful and ready for the sudden movement of a child turning into our path unexpectedly.

At 1:30 p.m. on January 18th, sitting in my car as my husband was getting the mail (corner of Monroe and Roosevelt), three cars raced by causing our car to rock back and forth. All three cars were traveling east on Roosevelt; two turned into homes on Roosevelt (one parking on the lawn) and one took a right near the end. Even though I don’t, I’m sure you know who you are.

There is no need to travel at high speeds here in this community. I drove from the east end of Roosevelt to the entrance of GVE. Using a stopwatch and driving at 20 mph, I recorded a time of 2 minutes 11.67 seconds. Now, come on people, you don’t have to risk an accident or worse for two minutes. And remember the speed limit is 25mph so your driving time at that speed would be less than mine.

Rush continued Page 3

Bits and Pieces

Calendar of Events

March 12

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 AM Sunday. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour Saturday evening.



March 15

The Board of Directors monthly meeting will be held at 1:30 PM at the *Jacaranda Library*. Note the earlier time.

March 30

Community Dinner Night Out will be held at *The British Open Pub*, 367 Jacaranda Boulevard, Venice, at 6:00 PM. Carole Armstrong is your host and will accept reservations at 493-2965.

April 6

Ladies Luncheon is planned for noon at *Carrabba's*, 1751 S. Tami-ami Trail, Venice. Your host is Cathy Albers, 314-481-5716. Please remember to call her for your reservation.

April 27

Community Dinner Night Out would normally be held on the last Thursday of the month. No one has

offered to plan and host the event.

Corrections

The February issue of *The Gulf View* mistakenly printed last year's Board of Directors. That has been corrected with this month's issue.

The fee collected for each participant of the Garage Sale was mistakenly listed as \$1.00 when, in fact, it has been \$2.00 for the past several years.

Typos do go unnoticed at times and I do sincerely apologize and hope it did not cause any inconvenience.

New Director

Jim Gillespie is joining the Board of Directors to fill the seat recently vacated by Mike Shlasko. We are grateful to Jim for volunteering and welcome him aboard.

Local Talent

Ainsley Urban recently moved to GVE from New Jersey and has joined a dance team at Starz Choice dance studio. They compete in both regional and national competitions which means they must raise money to help cover the costs. If you are interested in supporting one of our own, call Courtney Urban at 941-800-4535.



Rush continued

To those of you who have had similar instances where you experienced excessive speeding and carelessness, you have an option: No, don't call the Board! **Call your local Sheriff's Department at the non-emergency number: 941-316-1201.** When everyone who witnesses a speeding or careless driver calls this number and reports the incident, the Sheriff's Department will take notice!

Got the message, people? To those of you guilty of always being in a hurry, remember two things:

First, the ole adage, "stop and smell the roses"; life passes by quickly and lives can be changed in an instant.

Secondly, if you don't care about the ole adage, at least **SLOW DOWN.**

(The next stop may be required by an officer in a green and white car.)

Warning!

Small children have been seen playing in the culverts that surround some of the GVE homes.

Be aware that snakes and alligators come through the water pipes to hide and hunt in these wet, grassy areas. Please discourage using these ditches as playgrounds!

Neighborhood Watch

See it! Hear it! Report it!

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 941-316-1201

Mike Shlasko Resigns from Board of Directors

Mike came on board in December 2010. In 2012 he served as Vice President under Nanette Vuolo as President. With help of the other Board members, Mike led a decisive program to research and examine all GVE business that needed to be updated and brought to present-day standards. Below is a list of the accomplishments during his more than six year tenure as a Director, Vice President, President and Treasurer.

Infrastructure

Wall Repair

- Repaired extensive Stucco deterioration
- Added Top Stucco cap to Facilitate Runoff
- Repainted

Erosion Control Along Front Walls

- Obtained Sarasota County Grant
- Recruited Volunteer Labor
- Planted Aquatics along shoreline
- Planted Groundcover to stabilize the banks
- Netted to reduce Tilapia population

Front Entrance Enhancement (Thank you for your guidance Ed Kowalski)

- Planted 12 Royal Palms and other Landscaping
(Thanks to Jim Henry for getting us such good pricing)
- Expanded Irrigation System & Replaced Controller
- Outsourced Irrigation System Maintenance
- Outsourced and Enhanced Holiday Decoration
- Replaced all landscape lighting with LED dramatically cutting electrical budget
- Added two bright LED post lights
- Replaced Breaker Panel & other electrical infrastructure
(as Board Member under Linda Sussman)

Streetlights

- Worked with FP&L to inventory streetlights and identify longstanding billing errors
- Removed 2 streetlights that had not worked in decades and that we had been billed for
- Removed streetlight at front entrance that had been double billed for decades

Benches - Added benches along pond shoreline on Pierce

Signs - Replaced signs along Pierce, added signage at Front Entrance
(Thank you bench builder extraordinaire, John Cannon)

Administrative

Digitized and made searchable 30 years of paper HOA records to reduce cost resultant from duplication of previous efforts

Created Facebook Page

Replaced Property Manager & outsourced Web Site Maintenance
(as VP under Nanette Vuolo)

Governing Documents

Complete restatement of our Bylaws

Complete rewrite of our Easements, Covenants & Deed Restrictions
(as VP under Nanette Vuolo)

Implemented and Collected fines for Non-Compliance with Restrictions

Implemented Rental Policies

Worked through over a dozen foreclosures resultant from the financial crisis

Improved dues collection without taking legal action reducing legal fees by over 50%

Replaced and enhanced insurance coverage while reducing cost

Implemented accurate budgeting, and financial systems resulting in:

Elimination of requirement for \$10/year Reserve Contribution for 7 years

Stabilization of Annual Dues at \$190 for 8 years

Thank you for leading the charge, Mike! Our community is all the better for having you volunteer your substantial business, research and organizational skills to help make this a very special place to live.

Mike and his wife, Andrea, are moving to a new home this summer and pursuing even more challenges. They will be very much missed.

