



The SCOOP!

Newsletter of the North River Shores Community

Volume XXXIX, No. 5

November / December 2014

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- (Gov't & Public Relations)
- Katie VonAldenbruck.....Nominations
The SCOOP Liaison and Editor

2014 Board meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the following months: January, February, March, April, May, June, September and October. . All meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church on Pine Lake Drive. NRSPOA members may attend with approval from the Board. Any member in good standing (all assessments paid) wishing to address the Board should call 692-3939 and leave a message no later than noon on Friday before the next scheduled meeting. Schedule changes are posted on our web site: www.northrivershoresfl.org. NRSPOA, Inc. does not have a physical office, but may be reached at 692-3939, which is both a voice and fax number.

The SCOOP is published six times a year by the North River Shores Property Owners' Association, Inc. Submissions can be sent to Katie VonAldenbruck at katie@kdvon.com

Living on the Waters Edge

By Glen Gareau



There has been a lot of media coverage lately on the issue of water quality in the St. Lucie River, Indian River Lagoon, the Everglades, and Lake Okeechobee. I tend to think of the media coverage like a bikini, it can be revealing and tantalizing, but what they don't reveal is critical. Water quality is actually a very simple issue once you realize that everything that lands on the ground, the road, a farm field, or your yard ends up in the river. Lately the media and the public are focused on Lake Okeechobee, but if you look at the water quality sampling data published by FDEP and SFWMD South Florida Environmental Report you will find that the Lake Okeechobee only contributes about 25% of the Nitrogen and Phosphorus (nutrients) entering the St Lucie River. Approximately 45% of the nutrients come from the C-23 and C-24 basins, 10% from the C-44 basin and the remaining 20% comes from the adjacent urban basins (North Fork/Tidal St Lucie/Basins 4, 5, 6). Even if we could wave a magic wand and stop all flows from the Lake we would only address 25% of the problem, so the FDEP adopted a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) for the St Lucie River to reduce Phosphorus and Nitrogen levels to a goal of 0.72 mg/l of Nitrogen and 0.081 mg/l of Phosphorus measured at the Roosevelt Bridge. The St Lucie River and Estuary BMAP can be found on the FDEP web site (<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/bmap.htm>).

As a community on the banks of the St Lucie River we can have a direct impact on water quality if we manage our lawns and properties to limit the application of fertilizers and manage our grass clippings. You should never allow your lawn maintenance crews to shoot grass clippings out into the canals. Yes, I have seen this happen with my own eyes.

If you would like to learn what you can do take a look at "Living on the Water Edge" published by Sarasota County.

If you would like to learn even more about what you can do, you might want take a look at the Sarasota County Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team (<http://www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu/nest>) program with information regarding neighborhood level projects to improve water quality.

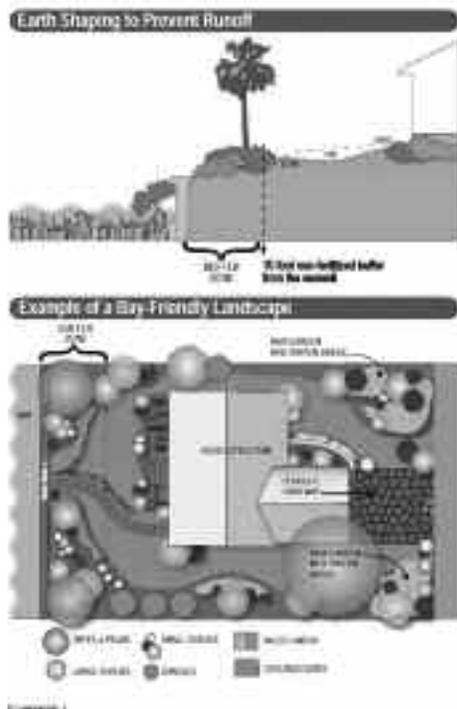
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Living on the Waters Edge

Continued from page 1

The City of Stuart recently sent the Board a letter reminding us not to sweep or blow grass clippings into the street, storm drains, swales, ditches, canals, or water bodies as described in a new City Ordinance (2280-2014, Sec. 20-168) and not to fertilize our yards during the rainy season from June through September. Martin County has adopted a similar fertilizer ordinance. The

purpose of these ordinance is to prevent the Nitrogen and Phosphorus contained in those grass clippings and fertilizers from getting into the river. This approach to improving water quality is called a source control best management practice (BMP) and by all accounts is the most effective method of reducing pollution. It is much easier to prevent nutrients from getting in the water by not putting them on the ground than it is to get them out of the water once they are in it.



GreenLine Landscaping Alternatives
 St. Johns County Fertilizer and Landscaping Management Code, Ordinance 2007-022
 Living on the water's edge is a beautiful and rewarding experience. This beautiful practice is landscaping a yard with a variety of plants that could be swept or blown to grass clippings they cover and do not get ground incorporated for maximum nitrogen and phosphorus. Instead, they are swept or blown to the water's edge. These plants have an ability to absorb and store nutrients and prevent them from getting into the water. This is a natural and effective way to reduce the amount of nutrients that get into the water. For more information, contact us at 772-334-3347 or visit our website at www.greenline.com

St. Johns County Library Program
www.stjohnslibrary.org 381.231.0000

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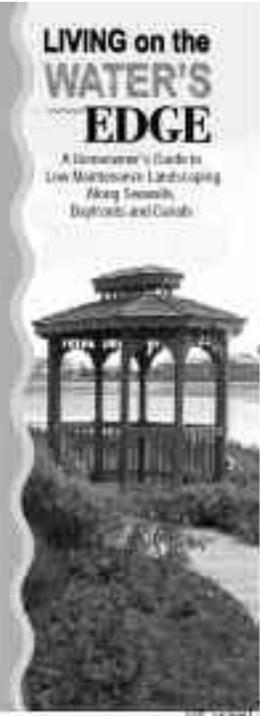
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Park. In 1999 Martin County added about 40 baffle boxes to the NRS storm water management system, but baffle boxes only trap sediment and debris, they do not remove nutrients.

The source control BMP's are important concepts to understand if you live in NRS because our stormwater management system provides very little water quality treatment since it was designed and constructed before the Clean Water Act Amendment of 1972 and before the State of Florida implemented the Environmental Resource Permitting program. If you care about water quality I would encourage you to contact Fred Burkey at the University of Florida IFAS extension office (772-288-5654) and have your soil tested to determine what level of fertilization it needs. You may find that your lawn does not need any Phosphorus as there is already enough in the soil.

Remember.... It we don't put it on the ground we don't need to remove it from our River!

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Recognizing Community Contributors — 2014 —

The NRSPOA Board established three gift categories to allow all NRS residents, whether members of the association or not, to contribute towards the maintenance of our beautiful community. These donations are kept in a special fund used exclusively for the upkeep and improvement of our common areas – parks, entrance sign, plantings and boat ramp. We like to recognize all donors in *The SCOOP*.

If you wish to help keep North River Shores an attractive place to live, please make your checks payable to NRSPOA, Inc. and mail to: NRSPOA, Inc., c/o The Rizzolo Group, 1958 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952.

These are the three gift categories:

SILVER STATUS: Non-members who gift an amount equal to the NRSPOA annual membership fee (currently \$185). All NRSPOA members and non-member boat ramp users who have paid their dues are automatically Silver Status.

Leonard & Dawn Morgan	Kenneth & Debra Brewer
C. Pfeiffer Trowbridge	Heidi Dodd
Margaret Gibbs	M. Lanning & Jane Fox
Robert & Joyce Johnston	Marcus Remington
Rozann Chubb	Mark Feltman
Anonymous	Ivan & Anne Munroe
Ronald & Peggy McCord	

GOLD STATUS: Any NRS property owner gifting \$100 to \$199 above the amount of the annual membership fee.

Bobby Ray Farmer
Walter & Jean Zeigler
Louis & Janet Rizzolo

PLATINUM STATUS: Any NRS property owner gifting \$200 or more above the amount of the annual fee.

Dr. Ralph Baker
Pat Deerin
Harold & Sara O'Connell

Social Committee

Submitted by Mary Rose Bressman

Welcome, neighbors, to the most wonderful time of the year in North River Shores! We are so appreciative of Dr. and Mrs. Michael Ferraro for again hosting this year's cookie exchange at 7 pm on December 10th. Their welcoming home on River Trail was decorated beautifully for the holidays and dozens of neighbors enjoyed drinks, cookies, visiting with each other--and ooh-ing and ah-h-ing over the Ferraro's adorable infant son!

THE NRSPOA SNOWSTORM DATE IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 31st. The party will begin at 6 pm and the four tons of snow will be blown at 7 pm. It will be very similar to the party we have thrown in years' past: crafts, snow cones, coffee and espresso bar, hot chocolate, music, catered food, fire pits for s'mores, and lots of twinkle lights and decorations to make us feel like we are in our very own winter wonderland in Lake Park on Lakeside Trail. Olde Florida Realty has generously offered to purchase the snow, which will allow us to increase our snowstorm food budget and to have extra money for other events throughout the year. This is a fun party for all ages, and in my opinion it is one of the best reasons to belong to the POA! If you haven't come before, I hope you will accept this invitation to join us at what has become one of the best parties in Martin County. I welcome any offers of help at Lake Park, especially Friday afternoon, any time Saturday, and Sunday morning. If your middle school or high school students need volunteer hours, send them over! I also feel we can never have too many cookies and brownies so if baking is more your thing, you can bring any donated baked goods to the park on Saturday afternoon or contact me to arrange a pick-up. Thank you everyone. The community effort that goes into the making of the snowstorm always warms my heart. Please text or call me anytime at 772-260-6478.

Mary Rose Bressman, Social Chair



Mary Rose Bressman, DVM
Richard B. Bressman, DVM
Carrie Coffey, DVM

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Captain Kevin's Fishing Report

By Captain Kevin Drennan



Fishing has been pretty decent out of the St. Lucie Inlet in the past few weeks. Dolphin have been caught in decent numbers as well as King mackerel and some cobia. Sailfish are beginning to work their way down from the north as the cold fronts move in. The Spanish Mackerel bite, which has been spotty, should also improve with the cooler temperatures. We had a decent trip the other day with several Mahi, a nice smoker King, and a sail. The bottom fishing has been good with a variety of snapper and trigger fish. Near the beach there are whiting, blue fish, Spanish mackerel, and an occasional pompano. The cooler water temps will slow down the snook bite and the tarpon will begin to move out. The bridges at night are the best bet to land a snook before the season ends next month.

Captain Kevin



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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

By Jerry Felton

YOU are needed to be **THE EYES AND EARS** for the Sheriff's office. **ALL RESIDENTS, CALL 911** if you see something **SUSPICIOUS**.

The October 14 Stuart News listed 16 scams that have victimized people in the community. Scammers claim to represent the Internal Revenue Service, law enforcement and others.



Our organization, the NORTH RIVER SHORES NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, continues as an active model for other communities.

We partner with the Martin County Sheriff and closely monitor our neighborhood to prevent crime.

Many thanks go to the 2014 patrol volunteers: Nancy Burnopp, Carole Cox, Beth Davies, Joe Evans, Robin & Ben Fedele, Jerry Felton, Glen Gareau, David George, Gloria & Jon Gottschalk, Hal Halliburton, Sandra & Gary Hawken, Scott Heggie, Dolly & Frank Hunnicutt, Molly Kirkhart, George & Barbara Kuzevski, Helen & Jim LeBlanc, Trish & Philip Littman, Joe Miller, Rich Porynen, Jeanne & Jeff Price, Max Quackenbos, Joe Ricchiuti, Dottie Starkey, Jan & Larry Stoorza and Katie Von Aldenbruck.

We are looking for new volunteers to join our team---even if you're available part of the year.

Volunteers drive through North River Shores at their leisure---staying in their cars---for an hour on their selected days.

There is a new schedule every month.

Orientation is provided. If interested, please call me at 692-2729.

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Education Credits

By Christopher Gall, EA

As a parent with college bound children, you are very likely concerned with setting up a financial plan to fund future college costs. If your children are already college age, your goal is to pay for current or imminent college bills. I'd like to address these concerns by suggesting education credits to take maximum advantage of tax benefits to minimize your expenses.

You may be able to take a credit for some of your child's tuition expenses. The American Opportunity tax credit is a credit of up to \$2,500 per student for qualified expenses for the first four years of college. In contrast, the Lifetime Learning credit is a credit of up to \$2,000 per family for qualified expenses for every additional year of college or graduate school. You may only claim one of these education credits per student, per year. To qualify for either credit, the student must be yourself, your spouse, or a dependent for which you claim an exemption on your tax return.

While the Lifetime Learning credit is not refundable, the American Opportunity tax credit is 40% refundable. That means that you can get a refund if the amount of the credit is greater than your tax liability. For example, someone who has at least \$4,000 in qualified expenses and qualifies for the maximum credit of \$2,500, but has no tax liability to offset that credit against, would be limited to a \$1,000 (40% of \$2,500) refund from the government.

Both credits are phased out for higher-income taxpayers (limitations shown are for 2014). The American Opportunity tax credit is phased out for those who file jointly with modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) between \$160,000 and \$180,000, and for those who file single with MAGI between \$80,000 and \$90,000. The Lifetime Learning credit is phased out for those who file jointly with MAGI between \$108,000 and \$128,000, and for those who file single with MAGI between \$54,000 and \$64,000.

If you would like to discuss the above planning possibilities, in more detail, please call 772-287-4480.

Submitted by Resident:
Christopher Gall, EA
Hill, Barth & King LLC

Look Twice, Save a Life

From the time they begin to walk, we tell our children to "look both ways...two times", before crossing the street.

At the intersection of US #1 & River Shores Blvd, we all need the same reminder. Last Saturday, another bicyclist was almost hit by a car leaving North River Shores. The cyclist was in the crosswalk.

During the Fourth of July Fireworks, guests from the Hampton Inn were walking in a group towards the Roosevelt Bridge when a vehicle almost ran into all of them.

Please be careful to look twice before creeping through the crosswalk to make the right on red; or forging forward the minute the light turns green.

It takes less than 15 seconds to double check and make sure the coast is clear; and those seconds can mean the difference between ruining your day, and someone's life.



Beautification & Maintenance

By Chuck Romano

We have scheduled our neighborhood overall trimming for the week of December 1 and our mangrove trimming is set for December 8. These dates were set in early November and should be complete by the time you read this Scoop. The lead time is necessary because our mangrove trimmers are available at that time and they know our parks and the laws governing mangrove trimming. As for our overall trimming, we have stayed with the same company because they too know our needs and expectations.

We are also planning to place two more benches at the duck pond. They will be located on the East side and face West overlooking the pond. At present the only seating is at the South end of the pond, and with all the improvements at the pond, folks will have more seating for the view. We also have plans for additional benches in our other parks. Suzy DiBartolo has volunteered to oversee the selection, style, and location of these benches.

Another item we have discussed is updating the color scheme of our entry sign. The present colors are dated and many new color schemes have emerged over the years. Think of it as the evolution of our neighborhood such what took place with our park signs. Do you remember when they were made of plywood? Well, that same change is coming for our entry sign. We'll keep its structure the same, but the color combinations will be 21st century. Keep your ears on for a sign committee and you too can have input on our new look.

The Hampton Inn & Suites Stuart North wants to be a good neighbor! Call 772.692.6922 and ask for the Good Neighbor Rate and receive a 10% discount!



Burglary Reduction

By Jeanne Price

Recently, as I have been driving around North River Shores, I have noticed some residents aren't aware of what law enforcement has taught us to reduce the chances of our homes becoming victim to a burglar. A burglary is when a criminal enters a house and unlawfully removes property. It is a crime against property, as opposed to a robbery, which is a crime against a person. Criminals don't pick houses to burglarize randomly. They observe or canvas a neighborhood and look for easy targets. It only takes minutes for a criminal to assess every house in an entire community the size of North River Shores. Law enforcement members informed us what the burglars look for to decide on a potential target and the steps we can take to reduce the chances of our homes being burglarized:

The Big Three:

1. Do not leave outside lights on during daylight hours. Burglars drive through neighborhoods during the early afternoon. They don't drive around at night. If they see outside lights on during the day, they know the homeowner is most likely away. This is the BIGGEST ONE !!!!!
2. Do not leave periodicals in your driveway. This includes daily newspapers (Stuart News), weekly papers (Hometown News), special publications, etc... Have a neighbor pick this up while you're gone. The Sheriff or police inform us that burglars casing a neighborhood does so somewhere near lunch time hours.
3. Have your trash and recycling receptacles taken in. Do not leave them out. If they are out in the pick up day past lunch, it shows occupants may work all day. If they are out the day after pick up, this indicates the occupants are possibly away on vacation.

For further information on additional steps to reduce the chance of a house being burglarized can be provided by contacting me at Olde Florida Realty. Just email me at Jpricerealtor@gmail.com and I will send you the entire document that members of law enforcement provide at crime prevention seminars.

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The SCOOP 2014 / 2015 Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Due Dates-Articles & Ad</u>	<u>Publish Dates</u>
January/February	January 9th	February 1st
March/April	March 13th	March 1st
May/June	May 8th	May 1st
July/August	July 10th	August 1st
September/October	September 11th	October 1st
November/December	November 13th	December 1st

Any member in good standing is encouraged to submit an article—with pictures if possible—or announcements of community activities to: Katie VonAldenbruck, editor, *The SCOOP* at katie@kdvon.com or regular mail: 1323 NW Spruce Ridge Drive, Stuart, FL 34994.

Thank you Gina Hartley for
volunteering as the new Scoop Editor!

Snowstorm Party - January 31st!!

Send us your current email to
lisaravelo@hotmail.com to receive invites
to North River Shores functions!

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