

## President's Message - Rich Magella

Many of you have noticed the newly concrete-paved area between the North/South Promenade and the attenuation wall. The objective of creating this patio-like area is twofold:

- 1) In the short term, to prevent undesirable plant volunteers such as Australian pine pups and various weeds nesting in the area and
- 2) More importantly, to serve as an underlayment to a future project which would involve the total repaving of the entire East/West and North/South Promenade extending to the attenuation wall.

The Board will consider the project at an early Spring Master Board meeting.

At last, as of the middle of January 2018, all aspects of our fitness center upgrades are complete. The two workout rooms, cardio and weight, have been painted. Extremely attractive wall artwork and accessories in both restrooms and hallway have been put in place. As of this writing the new universal equipment was just installed in the weight room. Everyone I have spoken to is excited about our new equipment which is a significant upgrade to the 10-year-plus old equipment.

Remnants of Hurricane Irma are still prevalent around Dolphin Cay. You cannot help but notice the large crane lift being utilized on all our Association buildings. For an update on this project please visit Buildings & Structures Committee - Chuck Grimm.

Another area that has taken its toll at Dolphin Cay is landscaping. Sod fields at the nurseries were overwhelmed and it is just now that we have been able to catch up. For an upgrade on the landscape issues please visit Landscaping Committee - Henri Tackett.

Outside the gate, the Alliance of Bayway Communities (ABC) continues to be very active regarding the landscaping and telecommunications issues along the Bayway that impact our community.

Briefly:

**Landscaping** - After many discussions between Broadspectrum (FDOT landscape contractor), the city, ABC, and Eckerd College, the city agreed to take responsibility for mowing and maintenance along the Bayway effective December 1. This required a formal agreement with Broadspectrum where the city is paid by them for taking on this work. In effect, the city is a sub to the FDOT's contractor. Broadspectrum's contract runs through 2021. At that time, the city will propose to do this work directly for the FDOT. Changes we will see include grass mowing once per week during the rainy season and once every two weeks during the dry season.

**Telecommunications** - The ABC telecommunications team is in active discussions with Spectrum in connection with a bulk rate for internet service. The current negotiations have the objective of providing significant savings for full-time residents when compared with residents individually purchasing internet service, while being sure the terms prove no disadvantage for part-time residents. There were two Town Hall meetings this month for the association board members. They took place on January 16 and January 23. The results are not known as of this writing.

## WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW NEIGHBORS!

Departing Residents	Unit/Lot	New Residents
Shuckhart	C-205	Binnington
Cannon	D-202	Wayman
Britt	E-105	Brink
Ebert	F-102	Knight
Whitelock	Lot #46	Rehman
Burke	Lot #34	Wright
Eatman	Lot #4	MacRae & Rexer
Wood	Lot #19	Erwin



### Community Association Manager – Ryan Howard, LCAM

It is that time of year again at Dolphin Cay when we hold our Budget and Annual Meetings.

By this time, all Associations have mailed out at least their first notice, which included their Budget Meeting notice as well. During February, we hold all six Budget Meetings. It is very important for all residents to know how their Association is doing financially and if they should expect an increase or decrease in their dues. In March, we hold the Annual Meetings.

Every Association has staggered terms for Board members, meaning every year there are seats open on the Board. If you have any interest, please contact me and I can go over the election process and everything that is required of our Board members. With a total of 36 Board member seats, the developers did not make it easy, but they did make it so every person at Dolphin Cay has a representative on the Master Board and specific rules, decided by sub-association Boards, within each condominium building as well.

Finally, we cannot stress enough that when you receive your second Annual Meeting notice in the mail, we NEED your proxy even if you plan on attending the meeting. It is vital that we have a quorum of the membership established before the day of the meeting. Without a quorum, it could end up costing your association thousands of dollars rescheduling these mandatory meetings. This is because, per Florida condo law, if a quorum is not achieved, the entire process needs to be started again.

Thanks for everyone's help on this- and we hope to see you at the upcoming meetings.

### Treasurer's Report - Don Wrobel

The most current financial report of the fiscal year 2017/2018 began April 1, 2017 and the results of operations for the first 9 months ended December 31, 2017 are:

Revenue amounted to \$912,772 as compared to budget of \$893,514 or \$19,258 over budget. One of the primary increases in revenue above budget was the reimbursement for the labor utilization of the Dolphin Cay maintenance team by the HOA'S within Dolphin Cay. During the past nine months, the HOA's utilization has been in excess of that which was budgeted. In addition, other areas of revenue contributed to the increase over budget such as club house rental income, review of rental applications, kayak storage, gate costs (cards, keys, fobs), and reimbursement of legal fees.

Operating Expenses and Reserve Funding for the nine months ending December 31, 2017 amounted to \$895,720

as compared to budget of \$893,514 or \$2,206 over budget. The cause of this variance is due to the timing of the actual payment for expenses as compared to the months in which they were budgeted.

<b>As of December 31, 2017</b>	
Total Operating Cash	\$228,287
Total Other Assets	33,871
Total Reserve Cash	534,026
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$796,184</b>

## Community of the Year 2017

Dolphin Cay won Community of the Year for 2017 awarded by Condominium Associates. This award is based on the number of units, the associations, board members, management team, and size of staff in addition to the beautiful appearance of the property.

Condominium Associates began managing condominium and homeowner associations in the Tampa Bay area in 1982, and presently has offices in Pasco, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. Condominium Associates is a full-service association management company providing services in the areas of facilities management, financial management, and administration. They currently manage about 300 properties in the state of Florida.

From the staff:

We were awarded this honor at the Holiday Party this year. There are a lot of people to thank including security, cleaning staff, landscaping, management, maintenance, committee volunteers, and especially all of our Board Members. We all do a great job of working together with common goals.

Thanks for making Dolphin Cay an award-winning community!



## COMMITTEE & ORGANIZATION REPORTS

### Architectural Review Committee - Cliff Allen

We hope everyone is enjoying our Florida winter at Dolphin Cay.

A reminder to all who are planning on doing some renovations this year - **PLEASE** fill out the proper forms in the management office located in the Casino. The office has all the necessary forms.

We realize how difficult it can be to get a contractor to commit to a certain date, but we need time to go over your request **BEFORE** construction begins.

There are three signatures that are needed before your project is approved - a building or homeowner representative, an ARC representative, and

someone from Property Management. Some requests may need a committee meeting to take place before the request can be answered. Please keep this in mind when submitting your forms.

Work is allowed only Monday through Friday and not on holidays. If you should have any questions about improvements or the process involved, please contact the management office.

As a reminder, if you are having work done on your home/condo and you are not here to oversee the work, PLEASE have a neighbor/friend check in on the job. This can greatly reduce the number of complaints sent to the office. Such things as working too late, leaving a mess in the hallways or street, etc., are very disruptive to your neighbors.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

## **Building & Structures Committee - Chuck Grimm**

The Building and Structures Committee works closely with the DCPOA (Master Board) and our Property Manager to address any and all building and structural issues. Members of the committee include David Aber, Carlo Daniele, George DeJong, Chuck Grimm, Tom Horan, John Kall, and Rich Magella.

Roof contractors, in their bucket-lift truck, are still completing mansard roof tile clean up and emergency repair from Hurricane Irma. They have completed Buildings A, B, C, and D and are now working on the Osprey Buildings. Our roofs are twenty-four-plus years old. The method of re-attachment has been improved, and today we are using stainless steel screws and better adhesive to re-attach each clay tile on the roof ridges. Our Committee visited the Bermuda roof to get a close-up look at the re-attachment process. The new method should be better able to handle a future "Irma"-type storm.

When all repairs are completed, we will look at various new types of roofs and attachment to better understand our future actions. All-in-all, we were fortunate with the amount of damage we had.

Dolphin Cay has been resurfacing our three Har-Tru tennis courts each year for over twenty years. Last month we tried a new company and they did a

very good job. In fact, some think better than the old. And, the new company is a bit lower in cost!

## **Governance Committee - Joe DeSalvo**

No Report.

## **Landscaping Committee - Henri Tackett**

November was a busy month with the seasonal flower bed changes and the annual mulch replenishment. The fresh mulch brought the beds and areas back to a renewed look and do much to preserve the soil and plants. The Gate House was the last to receive new flowers since the coleus were doing so well, until the first cold front hit. The Casino flower pots received new plants and the Gate House flower pots were planted with bougainvillea. The two pots at the residence entrance were taking turns having issues; as one plant was replaced the other suffered from the weather change. ProCare sprayed and fertilized and they are now budding so hopefully they will recover. Currently the flower pots behind the Casino are doing well.



The Landscape committee is happy to report the mature Hong Kong Orchid tree lost during Hurricane Irma has been replaced by a 17-foot Hong Kong Orchid. It was planted just before Thanksgiving slightly east of the old location. It is doing very well and

has not been affected by the cold snaps. The extra dirt mound will remain for a bit of extra support until spring.

As fall ended and winter began, the few cold fronts brought some positive and negative effects. The occasional cold snap helps to kill off vines and weeds that bring benefits into the spring and summer months. The more negative effects are to



the flowering plants like the hibiscus, bougainvillea, and ixora, and bushes like the durranta. Typically, cold fronts can bring higher winds, another element that can damage plants and affect robellini palms. All are being watched, or treated if needed, and if the weather is not too severe, all should recover.

The winter months also bring challenges in caring for and maintaining the sod. Irrigation monitoring turns to having periods where the water needs to be turned off. Excess watering causes a multitude of issues to the sod increasing carpet and crab grass, and fungus that causes brown spots. ProCare just completed sod replacement in several areas throughout the community. It is mostly due to damage by rabbits or problem areas that were unrecoverable. There are several more areas being treated and monitored.

Additional tree trimming will be conducted to get the oak trees in check throughout the community and get any palms that were missed in previous trimmings. The cedar trees we have at the front entrance and along Osprey Drive are being observed and will be addressed in the new fiscal year. The committee plans to determine the needs of the bromeliads gardens, such as cleanup and reduction.

The 'Division of Property for Inspection by Landscape Committee Members' involves nine zones. Each LC member reports on conditions in their zone that are compiled to a consolidated monthly zone report to forward to our ProCare account representative, Malisia, on the second Thursday of each month.

We thank our committee members for their time and volunteer work.

Landscape Committee meetings are usually scheduled the third Wednesday of the month in the Library and will be posted, so feel free to attend.

## Library Report - Teresa Johnson

Thanks for continued donations of new and popular books! By signing out your selections, you allow us to keep track of the inventory at all times, essential when making new purchases, so please take the time to do so.

Our DVD collection has grown – many great old classics are among them, found on the shelf marked

digital media. Charming children's books are on the bottom shelves and are something to share with your visiting grandchildren.

And thanks to Linda Murphy for the colorful thematic holiday display!

## Social Committee - Tammy Allen

Happy New Year! Hope it is a healthy one! Get your calendars out because we have a variety of events planned for the next several months. If your calendars aren't handy - no worries. There will be flyers posted in all the building lobbies. (A flyer is posted for homeowners outside the office on the bulletin board.) In addition to the flyers, we hang a poster at the entrance gate. If you have signed up to receive emails with Stacy Stenholm, you will get an email blast about all upcoming events. If you are not on our email list, just let Stacy know (sstenholm@aol.com) and she will be happy to add your name. So, with that being said, there is no excuse for not knowing what's going on socially in Dolphin Cay.

The Social Committee tries to have at least two charitable events each year to help the less fortunate in our area. In December we had a book drive to help the needy children of Gulfport. We would like to thank all those who donated books. We gave Gulfport Elementary School 300 new books to give to their students. A thank you letter from the school is posted in the Casino.

Movie night started up again in January. We show a movie once a month on the third Wednesday in the Casino. We provide popcorn and soft drinks and you may BYOB. The only exception to movie night will be in February. Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, will be BINGO. Start time is at 7pm in the Casino. BYOB and we will provide popcorn.

Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>: Concert/Bonfire- 5-8pm. This will be an outdoor concert and Owen Poteat will be the musician. (Some of you may have heard him at the Saturday Market downtown.) We will have a bonfire as well! This will be a catered event. The menu is not set yet, but it will be an assortment of food. \$5.00 for DC residents and \$10.00 for guests. Tickets will be sold ahead of time. Reservations for dinner are a must. (If you just want to attend the bonfire - no reservations are required). If the weather does not cooperate, the

dinner will still happen in the Casino as well as the music.

Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>: Sea Turtle Trackers Presentation at the Casino- 7pm. Sea Turtle Trackers have devoted their time and energy to protecting sea turtles on St. Pete Beach and Shell Key Nature Preserve. They are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with over 100 volunteers--no volunteer receives a stipend! The bulk of their work is during the months of April through October as they do turtle patrol and nest monitoring. Starting around the end of June, they also have nighttime volunteers who "babysit" the nests that are due to hatch. They monitor changes in the nest, and, should an egg begin to hatch, permitted supervisors make sure every hatchling safely reaches the Gulf waters. The team also responds to stranding calls due to cold-stun, injury, and illness throughout the year, transporting any live turtles to authorized rehabilitation facilities. One of the most important roles that the Sea Turtle Tracker volunteers play is as educators to the public about the best ways they can protect sea turtles.

We have many sea turtle volunteers who live in Dolphin Cay. Come and see what is happening in our own "backyard." The presentation will be accompanied by a slide show and use FWC authorized specimens for visual displays.

Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>: 8am-4pm. - Car Wash to benefit Sea Turtle Trackers. We will host a car wash for all Dolphin Cay residents. All proceeds will go to Sea Turtle Trackers. This will be held by the tennis courts at our car-washing facility. Details will be posted as we get closer to the date.

Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>: Outdoor Concert by the Lake- 3-5pm. Musician Cameron Decker will play some jazz so come and relax. Listen to great music and enjoy the scenery. Bring a lawn chair and BYOB, and your own snacks if you like. Your guests are also welcome to attend. Rain or shine.

Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>: Easter Egg Hunt- 9am. Rumor has it, from a good source, that the Easter Bunny will be here to bring candy and gifts to all the kids!

Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>: Memorial Day Party- 5pm in the Casino Area. Grills will be available. Live music. More details later.

All events subject to change. Please watch for flyers and emails.

We still have one calendar left for sale and note cards. Please leave money in the lockbox located in the Management Office.

The Social Committee needs help, especially at events and movie nights. Please contact me if you are interested. We could always use full time members too!

## Health & Fitness Committee - Raoul Baumel

The Health and Fitness Committee is tasked with recommendations and decisions about the two exercise rooms in the fitness center- the weight room and the cardio room. We now have a complete set of new equipment in the weight room.

The remodel of the fitness center rest rooms is complete, and we hope everyone has stopped in to see the beautiful updates.

Any residents who have suggestions or requests should give them in writing to the management office. This can also be emailed to [admin@dolphincay.com](mailto:admin@dolphincay.com).

## The Damsels of Dolphin Cay - Mary Pat Byrne and Kathy Chucan

We are pleased to announce that Mary Pat Byrne and Kathy Chucan have graciously stepped up to Co-Chair the Damsels of Dolphin Cay for 2018!

Approximately forty women attended the January 17th Damsels of Dolphin Cay Annual Meeting and Luncheon in the Casino. Many special thanks to Kate MacReynolds and Judi Donoher for the lovely luncheon and for leading another successful year filled with fun activities and great times for the women of Dolphin Cay.

Barbara Leone oversees Damsels Tears and Cheers and sends out birthday and sympathy cards on behalf of the Damsels of Dolphin Cay. Thank you Barbara.

We also thank Joan Kipp, who has been the Damsels Treasurer, for her many years of service. And Sandie DeSalvo too, who continues to be the Damsels Back- Up Treasurer. Lois DonCarlos has volunteered to assume the Damsels Treasurer

position, and we thank her for dedicating time to keep an accounting of our funds.

We are currently collecting annual dues of \$20.00 for 2018. If you wish to continue as a member of the Damsels or want to join this awesome group, please drop a check made payable to the "Damsels of Dolphin Cay" in the lock box located in the Dolphin Cay Management Office.

The Damsels provided a sign-up sheet for our monthly events at the luncheon. We are pleased to announce that most of the months are covered. We only need hostesses for September and October. There are so many things to do in our area, please think about planning an event.

Any questions, please contact:

Mary Pat Byrne at 312-590-2222 or [mpbyrne2222@gmail.com](mailto:mpbyrne2222@gmail.com), or Kathy Chucan at 847-212-8980 or [kchucan@gmail.com](mailto:kchucan@gmail.com).

## Public Communications Committee - Sue Carlson

Have you checked the Dolphin Cay website lately? We post photos, **Currents by the Cay** (current and past editions), a map with a link to area information, as well as a link to the Dolphin Cay/Condo Associates website where you can check your personal account.

With the new software implemented by Condo Associates last winter, a new login is needed to access your personal account. If you have not done so already, use the "Homeowners Login" at the far right of our Dolphin Cay website ([www.dolphincay.com](http://www.dolphincay.com)) to register and get your personal login. For any problems with accessing your personal information, please call Condo Associates at 727-573-9300.

Due to the advertising sales, we are now able to use a color format for **Currents by the Cay**, including photos. Please check out the advertisements at the end of this newsletter and thank our advertisers if you have the chance.

Please consider joining our **Currents by the Cay** volunteer staff. We are especially looking for help in proofreading as well as writing articles for our community newsletter.

## Mah Jongg - Stacy Stenholm

Mah Jongg is a Chinese game that can be played with two or three, but usually by four people. We use the National Mah Jongg League rules and cards for the version being played in Dolphin Cay. The game is similar to playing cards, but with Chinese tiles which are collected to make winning hands.



We have a great group of ladies who play Mah Jongg on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 to 4pm in the Card Room. If you are interested in playing Mah Jongg on Tuesdays, please email Stacy Stenholm at [sstenholm@aol.com](mailto:sstenholm@aol.com) or call her at 727-698-1766.

If you would like to learn how to play Mah Jongg, lessons will be offered on Thursdays mornings from 10am to 12pm on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>rd</sup> in the Card Room if there is enough interest. In addition, those learning Mah Jongg would benefit greatly by sitting in and watching the game being played on Tuesdays at 1:30pm. If you are interested in learning how to play Mah Jongg, please email Stacy Stenholm at [sstenholm@aol.com](mailto:sstenholm@aol.com) or call her at 727-698-1766.

## NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATIONS

### Antigua - Steve McAuliffe

25 Years... Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!

Yep, Dolphin Cay's first building, our Antigua, celebrated its 25-year anniversary in January. It was a party for the ages with a Mardi Gras menu, historic slide show, and wonderful camaraderie.





*Ten of Dolphincay's original condominium purchasers are still living in Antigua, L to R: Tinker & Jim Strickland, Becky & Steve McAuliffe, Barbara Leone, Nellie & George DeJong, and Barbara & Dick Sierra Seated: Charlotte & Bob Melby. Not Present: Barbara Capalbo, Charlie and Ruth Finzer, Larry Bowman, and Sittah Altwaijri.*

Over 50 past and current residents shared news and memories over jambalaya, red beans and rice, muffulettas, shrimp cocktail, sausage skewers, king cake, and many other delicacies thanks to Chef Bill Breaden and Debi Eagan's thoughtfulness and generosity... and, of course, spearheaded by Terilyn and Tom Bloniarz.

*Tom and Terilyn Bloniarz are making sure everything is just perfect.*



Having attended Dolphincay's groundbreaking event in 1991, primarily accessed by 4-wheel vehicles on the shore to what is now Cat's Point Beach, it is amazing how beautifully our 88-acre community grew into one of Florida's most treasured gems. I feel that our little neighborhood looks better today than it did when initially completed. And, to keep our building looking young and current, we will be updating the garage, mechanical systems, roof tiles and soffits, landscaping, and several other items in need of a face-lift.

Completing the circle, we extend a very warm welcome to our newest homeowner, Karen Eckles, in 403, and a big welcome to little GiGi in 307.

Enjoy your Florida winter. I remind you to please abide by the speed limit out of consideration for your two and four-legged neighbors.

## Bermuda

No report.

## Curacao

No report.

## Dominica - Sue Carlson

We are having a wonderful Winter season with more friends and neighbors back at Dolphincay. We would also like to welcome all our new residents to Dominica.



With our roofing damage almost complete, we are happy to put Hurricane Irma behind us. And our great Florida weather is helping us forget the last hurricane season but keeps us looking at any changes that may need to be made before next season.

The Dominica Socials on the last Friday of the month continue. This monthly activity is a great way to meet our new neighbors and see old friends. Thank you to the Social Committee for organizing this event.

## Eleuthera, Fernandina, and Guadeloupe - Teresa Johnson

Social: The latest Osprey Pointe get-together was held on a balmy November evening at our lovely bayside venue.

Christmas: The diligent volunteers did an exceptional job of the lobby decorating. You really make the season special for all to enjoy!

The delivery and moving box situation is critical. The onsite recycling does not accept corrugated cardboard, so if the dumpsters are used for boxes,



they must be broken down or taken to the city recycling location.

**Pool:** Within a two-week window in January the Osprey pool was drained, entirely refurbished, and was up and running again complete with new steps and a nicely polished ladder. They did a superb job to last for quite some time. The lounge chairs received new powder coating, paint, and fabric and the pool area walkway is illuminated with new LED lamps.

**Landscaping:** Some patches of lawn were stricken with a fungus. New sod replacement is ongoing. Mildew growth on E building's base travertine face was power-washed by maintenance staff.

**Roof tiles:** Post hurricane repairs continue, slow at times due to safety in windy and cold weather conditions. An alternative approach to the crane must be used behind each building.

**New doors:** All three of our buildings have had a successful replacement of the front doors. They now both open easily for large deliveries and moves, which should preserve them from the marring caused in the past. New locks and paddle openers were placed on the garage doors. All new door stops are commercial grade and require a brief foot push to secure them.

**Contractor's rules:** An addendum to the Dolphin Cay Contractor's Rules now accompanies all requests for improvement in Osprey Pointe as an effort to get more residents involved in oversight of their contractor's compliance, as owners bear responsibility for damage of common property. Contractor damage incurred, and/or any cleaning required, will now be deducted from the owner's deposit.

**Traffic:** There remains some confusion among truck owners about the after-hours access policy, which allows from 7:00am through 8:00pm only.

**Drivers,** when the radar is not set up at Osprey, check your speedometer and please try harder to keep it at 15 mph.

**Kudos:** The Osprey Board has been busy and Charlie Sell, our president, is working full time on our behalf. These are volunteer positions and we are fortunate to have this dedicated team. Thanks to all!

## Single Family Homes - Van Williams

Single Family Homeowners who have their irrigation control panels inside their garage should have them moved to the outside so that ProCare can test or run your irrigation when they find a problem in your yard. Please contact the main office or ProCare directly at 727-821-7695 to have them do this for you. This should not be a large expense as they only need to drill a small hole through the wall to run the wiring outside and mount the control panel on the outer wall.

Single Family Homeowners who have natural gas through TECO/People's Gas should be aware of underground gas pipe deterioration within our community. A couple of homes are reporting the smell of gas along their driveways and have called TECO/People's Gas for inspection and gas leaks have been found. In both cases, the leaking pipes were found underground where they lead into the house. The excessive corrosion is occurring due to the irrigation for landscape along our driveways. Contact TECO/People's Gas for an inspection at 877-832-6747.

Single Family Homeowners, did you know that you can create an account with Waste Management and register to receive reminder emails of your trash and recycle days? This is extremely helpful during holidays and storm events. Just go to [www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com) to sign up.

Several of our Single Family Homes have been getting new roofs installed due to damage sustained during Hurricane Irma. What Single Family Homeowners are discovering is that we can no longer get the roof tiles that were used when building our homes. The original roof tiles were manufactured in Venezuela, and the company who manufactured the roof tiles went out of business a few years ago. This has resulted in the need to replace the roof tiles on their entire roof if damage occurs.

You may have noticed the Single Family Homes additional exterior paint colors. While we still support the Mediterranean beiges and cream colors, the ARC is now accepting earth tones as a suitable exterior color in Dolphin Cay.

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## NOTES & REMINDERS:

### IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Water leaks can cause damage to your apartment and your neighbor's apartment. These can come from your icemaker line, a toilet line, a washer hookup, or other plumbing fixtures. But there is an easy remedy for many of these leaks and the resulting damage. Turn off the water line into your apartment any time you leave for more than a day.

The shutoff is in your utility closet where the water heater resides and is an easily turned handle. No special tools or skill is required! This is a 5 second task that could help save your apartment and possessions- and your neighbor's.

Please remind your neighbors to do this too- and we can all save money and time from preventable damage!

If you need help the first time, ask a neighbor or call the office for someone to show you how to do this very simple task.

## SEA TURTLE TRACKERS



For more than 35 years, Bruno Falkenstein and the team at Sea Turtle Trackers, Inc. have devoted their time and energy to protecting sea turtles on St. Pete Beach and Shell Key Nature Preserve. They are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with over 100 volunteers--no volunteer receives a stipend! The bulk of their work is during the months of April through October as they do turtle patrol and nest monitoring. Early morning beach patrol consists of walkers and the Turtle Truck on the 4.5 miles of St. Pete Beach, and a boat ride and 3-mile hike on Shell Key Nature Preserve.

Starting around the end of June, they also have nighttime volunteers who "babysit" the nests that are due to hatch. They monitor changes in the

nest, and should it begin to hatch, permitted supervisors make sure every hatchling safely reaches the Gulf waters. The team also responds to stranding calls due to cold-stun, injury, and illness throughout the year, transporting any live turtles to authorized rehabilitation facilities.

The volunteers are committed to the education and outreach portion of their mission. They participate in local fairs and festivals, host educational events on the beach, and visit schools and community groups.

They tailor their talks to the age range of the group in which they are visiting and use FWC authorized specimens for visual displays.

Through the efforts of groups like the Sea Turtle Trackers, Florida FWC, local residents and businesses, and many others, the sea turtle population is making a recovery. The last two nesting seasons on St. Pete Beach and Shell Key were both record years with over 90 nests laid by female loggerhead sea turtles. Natural weather events wreaked havoc on the hatching success of many of those, but the Sea Turtle Trackers feel encouraged by the numbers in recent years.

One of the most important roles that the Sea Turtle Tracker volunteers play is as educators to the public about the best ways they can protect sea turtles.

They spread the word about keeping the beach Clean, Dark, and Flat. “Clean” means free of litter

and any other obstacle that could interfere with a nesting female. The Sea Turtle Trackers would like to encourage all visitors to avoid bringing plastics to the beach, because unfortunately much of it ends up in the waters. All beach chairs and cabanas should be removed every night. STT volunteers can often be seen gathering trash during beach clean-ups or on regular morning patrols. “Dark” refers to the importance of *only* using red light when walking the beach after dark. White light from windows, flashlights, and cellphones disorients both nesting females and hatchlings. And finally, “flat” is relating to the need to fill in all holes and to flatten sand castles after a day in the sun. Restoring the beach to a flat state keeps it safer for sea turtles and humans, alike.

To learn more, please visit their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/seaturtletrackers>, or go to [www.seaturtletrackers.org](http://www.seaturtletrackers.org).

If you would like to support the turtles, the Social Committee will have a Car Wash at Dolphin Cay to benefit Sea Turtle Trackers Inc. on Saturday, March 24th 8am-4pm. All proceeds will go to Sea Turtle Trackers Inc. This will be held by the tennis courts at our car-washing facility. Details will be posted as we get closer to the date.




**Currents by the Cay** is published three times each year by the Public Communications Committee of the Dolphin Cay Property Owner’s Association.

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Contributions should be emailed to the Editor: Sue Carlson ([suecarlson@outlook.com](mailto:suecarlson@outlook.com))



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