

Sept 2020

Hello Neighbor!

What a year! Who would have thought in January that the next months would be as cataclysmic as they have been. A booming economy, employment and stock markets at all-time highs. Then the effects of a coronavirus coming out of China put millions out of work and students out of their classrooms, resulting in business closures, many of them never to reopen. A perfect storm brewing for the unrest in many cities, destroying even more businesses. Luckily, here in Naples we've been spared the senseless, destructive insanity visited upon other cities. Let's do everything in our power to keep Palm River and Naples out of the fray.

Bridge Reconstruction

That being said, we're now in the beginning stages of the reconstruction of the bridge over untroubled waters, the Palm River. Traffic on Piper, Palm View, Cypress Way West and Viking Way has certainly increased. But not like it's going to get when our seasonal residents return.

So, as you've learned, plan your trips into and out of Palm River with the additional time it takes to get to Immokalee Road. Drive the speed limit and expect additional drivers at some intersections. Be especially careful when you see walkers, joggers and school kids in the early morning. And if you can, avoid the busy times. Like we've heard for many months now: We're all in this together. Let's hope the effect of the virus is over before the bridge is finished.

Ken Oehler

President, Palm River Homeowners Civic Association

Bridging The Gap

Peter Blackford had a great idea to put a positive spin on the bridge closure. He organized and had a ceremony of sorts on Tuesday, August 18th for the last car to cross the bridge before it was closed to public traffic. Peter arranged for Bill Miller to drive his beautifully restored 1934 Packard over the bridge. Accompanying him were Peter and his wife Sandy, and Susan Rosen from LaPlaya. Here are photos of the event.



Palm River: Our Lovely Village in North Naples

Palm Prints

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Now the bridge is gone and the only traffic in that area is construction equipment. Big equipment. We also plan to have a ceremony for the first car to cross the bridge when it's released to the public. Let's hope that day is soon.

Other Effects of the Virus

Due to the necessary limitations, such as social distancing and wearing masks, the Board of Directors of the Palm River Homeowners Civic Association, in conjunction with General Manager Alan Findlay, cancelled the annual meeting at LaPlaya in March. We will be guided by county and state medical advice as to when we can reasonably conduct a meeting with a large number of attendees. Zoom is definitely out of the question. Our annual meetings usually result in some active question and answer sessions, so if you have a question or wish to comment on anything of interest, please contact any of the board members. We also cancelled plans for our annual golf outing at LaPlaya this fall.

The PRHCA board has not met in person since our last monthly meeting in February. Our business has continued, however, by phone, text and email and an occasional one-on-one meeting. Our tentative plan is to have a board meeting in October, with distancing and masks in place. Your Treasurer continues her diligent management of your dues money. Fran Hoy continues to communicate any and all items of interest to our members via email as issues arise. Your President meets regularly with our landscaper to make sure our common areas continue to look good and to decide on additional landscaping to improve the looks of areas such as the median on Palm River Blvd, the entry sign area at Cypress Way East and Piper, and the "bridge" over the creek at Ibis Way. When the new bridge over Palm River is completed, we will put in new shrubs and trees to enhance the area. We will also have the bridge painted and matching escutcheons installed to match the bridge over the canal at Palm River Blvd. The new bridge will be solid concrete so we won't be able to look between the wooden slats to see the river anymore.

Sidewalks

Please carefully examine the inserted questionnaire on sidewalks and the cover letter. We need to know if there is enough interest in sidewalks to proceed with the possibility of our homeowners paying for them. Sidewalks at county expense may be out of the picture for many years. Sidewalk Committee Chair Stephanie Lucarelli also sent out a similar questionnaire by email to many residents. We hope the results are positive enough to take to Commissioner Andy Solis to convince him to include sidewalk installation when the infrastructure work begins in Palm River, which won't occur until after the bridge construction is completed.

Christmas Decorations

This past Christmas, for the first time, we had a holiday decorations company install lighted decorations on the bridge at Palm River Blvd and on the five palm trees in the median across from the motel. We got many, many positive comments from residents. We also received financial support from Alan Findlay at LaPlaya Golf Club which helped defray the expense. Thank you Alan. Many residents asked why we didn't do the same thing at the one-way bridge over the canal at Cypress Way East. There is no electrical power there. However, we did look into it but estimated the cost of bringing power from the meter for the flag lights to both sides of the bridge to be too high. We examined other alternatives, such as a gas-powered generator, or heavy duty batteries, and found them to be not feasible. So we will continue to put up the garlands and the ribbons and wreaths. We won't have the bridge over the Palm River to decorate this year unless we get creative at the construction site. Anyone have any ideas?

Palm River Homeowners and Civic Association Will Award Scholarships to 2021 Graduating Seniors

We received \$1920 in voluntary scholarship contributions so far this year. That allowed us to award three \$500 scholarships to Palm River 2020 high school graduates. The Palm River Homeowners and Civic Association will once again present \$500 Scholarships to 2021 high school graduates who live within the Village of Palm River Estates. The funds will be raised by businesses and residents who make an additional contribution when sending in their annual Association dues.

2021 graduates interested in applying for a PRHCA scholarship should contact: Mike Adamski, Scholarship Chairman at: madamski829@comast.net or call (609) 548-7999 for further information.

Palm River History

Here is a picture of the old Palm River clubhouse that was replaced by the new LaPlaya clubhouse. Many of you remember it. Some of you may recall that it included a small bar and restaurant. It was also the voting location for this precinct.

The Palm River homeowners meeting was held there spring and fall for a number of years. I remember John Belt and

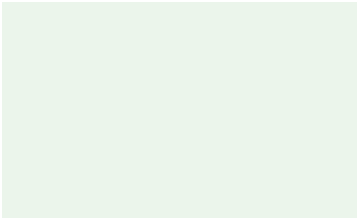
then Jean Belt presiding over the meetings. If the meeting was difficult, it perhaps called for a drink in the bar afterwards and perhaps dinner if the meeting did not last too long. This was the second Palm River clubhouse. The first was in the house at 113 Viking Way on the corner.

We don't have any photos of the interior of the first club house at 113 Viking Way, but we do have some descriptions in the history of Palm River written for us by Bob Forsythe. You can read that history on our website www.PalmRiver.org. We also have some very warm recollections of entertaining times there from Bob and also from Mrs. Nina Miller who lived at River Royale at that time. If you would like to read Bob's history but don't have access to the internet, call Francis Hoy at 239-598-9519 for a copy. It's about 30 pages and pleasant reading.

This photo was taken from a booklet covering the Palm River Men's Golf Association. There is a similar booklet covering the women's golf association. Both booklets list the names of the members as of 1980. Long time residents in Palm River would be pleased to recognize some of the names.



**Palm River Homeowners
and Civic Association
PO BOX 110002
Naples, FL 34108-0101**



Important Notice

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Palm River Homeowners and Civic Association

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