

Editor's Note: Now that the holidays are behind us, it's time to look forward to a new year and new beginnings in our little corner of the world. We got off to a good start with the first annual Christmas potluck gathering of Briarwood residents on Dec. 15th. Along with the good food and fun, many new acquaintances were made. The hope is to continue these events several times each year. All input and help is welcome. We will only be as successful as we are supportive.

President's Message: Dear Briarwood Neighbors, Happy New Year.

I hope all had a wonderful holiday.

A huge thank you to all those responsible for making the community party such a success. This was a great way to get in the Christmas spirit and a great time was had by all.

If you missed out I hope you'll make the next social. Misty Pike is our social chairman so if you wish to help, please let her know.

The new year brings new challenges and issues for our neighborhood. Elections are right around the corner, so if you are interested in being on the board or know someone who is get the word around. We are missing a Vice-President.

Committee members are also needed. This is a good way to be involved, get to know your neighbors and help the community.

Secondly, a 51% vote of homeowners is needed for any amendments to be changed or new board members to be elected. This is so important for us all. You can't complain about codes or restrictions or board members if you are not willing to vote. Your vote does matter. If you have issues you feel need to be voted on or amendments made, please e-mail them.

Finally, election, voting materials, and the yearly budget will be mailed shortly. Please read and save. The information is important.

As always, I welcome your emails and will try to respond in a timely manner.

Debbie Whitaker
Whitaker1briarwood@gmail.com

Briarwood Celebration: A big thanks goes out to our big-hearted residents that gave of their time, talent and treasures to help decorate our entrances and big pool area, in addition to planning activities for our children. We owe a big thanks to our very own Briarwood Santa, who visited our children at the potluck event also. The biggest thank you is to all who attended to make it such a success.

Home Decorating Contest: Those who attended the potluck cast their votes for the top 8 homes selected. Congratulations to Jeff and Alessandra Sak of 2828 59th Ave. E., who won the first place award! Roger and Jackie Boucher, of 5810 28th St. E., received the first runner-up prize. Our residents truly brightened our community with the spirit of Christmas this year.

Importance of Leadership: If you asked Betsy Hawkins, Misty Pike, Debbie Whitaker, and Jason Miller why they accepted the unpaid, and sometimes unappreciated, role of board member, you would find that they all share the common goal of a well-kept, safe environment and a community that is well-represented and enjoyable for all its residents. Once again, an additional board member position is available when the elections take place at the annual March Membership Meeting. Former board member Richard Newby has resigned. We thank him for his many hours of service and diligent effort in improving aspects of Briarwood common interests. If you feel that you share these common goals and have assets to share please consider giving a year or more to this position. It only takes reading the past six issues of this newsletter to see the dedication that this current board has put forth.

Special thanks to Palm Printing. Contact Jason@PalmPrinting.com or call 941.907.0090.

Please see the reverse side for more about your Briarwood community

DECEMBER 10th BOARD MEETING RECAP

Owner's Comments: Included a request for fire ant control in the common areas, the lack of plants on the south boundary, and the on-going problem of dog owners neglecting to pick up after their pets outside of their personal property.

Board Solutions: TruScapes has been asked to spread treatment for the fire ants and will begin new shrub plantings in March. They have also begun work on trimming and replacing existing shrubs.

Residents are asked to contact the Citizen's Action number for the Manatee Animal Control @ 941-742-5800 if you witness a dog owner that refuses to pick up their pet's waste. Fines can be imposed for this action. In addition, residents are encouraged to make an incident report on our BriarwoodFL.com website for this or any other illegal action witnessed within our boundaries.

New Business: The proposed 2014 budget was approved. There was a noted decrease in our operating expenses, the largest being the building and grounds maintenance.

Both pool bathrooms have been refreshed with new paint, mirrors and hygiene improvements.

Casey's Management is obtaining bids on the repair of the deck at the larger pool. This expense is expected to be covered by the prior year's surplus.

The Architectural Review committee announced it will begin monitoring paint chips for any new home painting proposals. Residents must have any changes in color approved.

Proposal for Pool Security Camera System:

Jason is waiting on bids from two security companies to determine the cost of adding camera surveillance at the pools to our current key fob entry package.

Next Monthly Meeting: will be held on **Tuesday, February 11th, 2014, at 7:30 PM** at the Worship Place, 5535 33rd St. All are welcome.

New Briarwood Section Map: For those of you who do not know what section/zone of the neighborhood you live in, Jason was kind enough to print an enlarged version that can be found on the community bulletin board at the large pool.

Neighborhood Crime Watch: For those interested in the neighborhood crime watch, please contact the HOA President. The Manatee County Sheriff's Department has been contacted about our interest in this endeavor, but in order for this to be effective there must be participation from each section. The deputy in charge informed us that there is a series of four meetings in the process prior to setting up the crime watch. Participation is key.

Compliance: Compliance issues are ongoing. Should you receive a letter concerning your property please remember you are not being personally picked on. Compliance issues are part of our codes and restrictions and are there for a reason. Though a nuisance at times, and most of us have fallen short at some point, they are important for keeping our community looking its best and maintaining property values. All of us reap the benefits.

Contact List:

President, Debbie Whitaker:
whitaker1briarwood@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer, Betsy Hawkins:
jackbetsyhawkins@gmail.com

Compliance Director, Misty Pike:
mistypike@ymail.com

Safety Director/Webmaster, Jason Miller:
jasonbriarwood@gmail.com

Editor, Tonya McDonald:
tonya_mcd@yahoo.com

Casey Management Rep, April Lipstein:
(941) 727-4698

Visit the Briarwood community website which has many resources at www.BriarwoodFL.com