February 2010 — April 2010

anctuary oviedorer

www.thesanctuaryhoa.org PROPERTY MANAGEMENT Pinnacle Management, LLC

The

Anne Smith, Property Manager 407-977-0031 Clubhouse Directors Kay, Pam • Jose Rivera, Pool Monitor 407 971-9749 Clubhouse Reservations Kay, Pam • 407 971-9749 clubhouse@thesanctuaryhoa.org Architectural Review

Applications

Download from Website or pick up at the clubhouse.

THE SANCTUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Howard, President president@thesanctuaryhoa.org John Ciesko, Vice-President vp@thesanctuaryhoa.org Alycia Wood, Treasurer treasurer@thesanctuaryhoa.org Valerie Williams Secretary secretary@thesanctuaryhoa.org Christin Hards, Director, Landscape Committee Chair directorl@thesanctuaryhoa.org Lynn Boykin, Director director2@thesanctuaryhoa.org Sandra Alvonso, Director director3@thesanctuaryhoa.org

Obtaining official records: All requests for records must be submitted, in writing, to Pinnacle Property Management. Pinnacle will have ten (10) business days to respond to the request. The resident will be notified by Pinnacle, the date and time the records will be available for viewing. Pinnacle Property Management, 1511 E State Rd 434, suite 3001, Winter Springs, FL 32708.

President's Message

Submitted by Past President Valerie Williams

The Sanctuary Homeowners Association Year End Report

hope you were able to attend our Annual Meeting on January 28. If you missed it, this article is a summary of what was reported to attendees.

First, I want to thank the 2009 Board members for making 2009 go so smoothly. Your Board donated countless hours of already busy schedules to make 2009 a year of many achievements, in spite of many recession-imposed challenges.

I would like to share with you some of the accomplishments your HOA achieved this year:

· IMPROVED/REPAIRED SIGNAGE

Sometimes you just need a sign to remind you of community concerns about safety, to provide helpful information, or to help keep The Sanctuary looking good.

The Board authorized repair of damaged street signs and vandalized monuments (we're still seeking a vandal-resistant solution for repeated damage to neighborhood monuments) and had other signage added to increase traffic safety. We also added "reminder" signs to the wooded reserve areas dedicated to preserving habitat quality and had perimeter fences repaired to help keep the "outsiders" out of these protected, fragile areas.

• POOL MAINTENANCE

Always an ongoing expense; keeping the Amenity Center pool area a safe and healthy place to swim required leak repair, painting, plumbing repairs, resurfacing, furniture repair and replacement, lighting repair and the myriad of other items suffering from continual use.

The landscape committee worked diligently to redesign our pool area landscaping to minimize flower bed erosion due to rainstorms.

The pool area was only one of the many projects that faced the landscape committee as the neighborhood continued to mature.

Fountain and irrigation repair, common area maintenance and entryway beautification were among many other tasks the committee oversaw. An im-

President's Message

continued

portant and, as it turns out, time consuming task has been to acquire deeds to all the lift stations (four chain link fenced-in pumping stations) that the developer failed to deed over to the association. The stations are supposed to be deeded to Alafaya Utilities and used to pump away waste water and supply recycled irrigation water.

At project completion irrigation water will be available to some common areas that require water for landscaping improvements.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Your Board stood up to the financial crisis that, due to foreclosures and other money problems, ate into the considerable budget required to preserve the quality of your neighborhood.

Thanks to Board Treasurer Alycia Wood, and other Board and committee members who have watched expenses like a hawk, The Sanctuary, unlike many other HOAs, has so far avoided having to raise dues or issue special assessments.

We're vigorously pursuing the few homeowners delinquent in their dues who are placing the burden on the rest of you to maintain The Sanctuary.

To help reduce the development's considerable energy expenditures the Board asked homeowner Roger Mauzey to do an energy study to identify ways we can save money in 2010. See his report on page 3.

Your Board also continues to pursue the lawsuit begun more than a year ago to recover money the developer owes the association.

Although The Sanctuary won the judgment, getting the money has proved difficult. Funds we recover will go toward replenishment of reserves used to correct alleged developer defects.

QUALITY OF LIVING

Covenants Enforcement (CEC) and Architectural Review (ARC) Committees worked together with our property manager Pinnacle Property Management, to encourage compliance with The Sanctuary's deed restrictions.

Both these committees deserve your appreciation for their necessary although frequently thankless task of adhering to the laws governing our community.

A major ARC accomplishment last year was revitalizing the community's color palette to make it easier for homeowners to select approved exterior colors for repainting. The approved color book, now at the Amenity Center, offers almost 100 combinations of body and trim colors.

This short summary hardly skims the surface of the numerous issues that came to the Board's attention in 2009. A community of 744 homes takes some significant effort to maintain the neighborhood quality envisioned by the developers and for which the overwhelming majority of you signed up. With your help, Board and committees will be able to make it even better.

Babysitting Services

We are in the process of updating the babysitters' list. Please call 407-971-9749 or e - m a i l :

clubhouse@thesanctuaryhoa.org to have your name placed on the list. 🏫

HOA Presidents Meet

Submitted by Bob Howard, President

E ncouraged by The Sanctuary Board, presidents and other representatives of Oviedo-area HOAs have met several times informally to trade stories and advice on running a successful HOA community.

I met with the group for our first organizing meeting and approved a draft charter.

Of the 38 HOAs in Oviedo, we have commitments from 18, with quite a few others willing to send a representative, if not their president. All things considered, it was a very good first turn out.

Oviedo Mayor, the Honorable Mary Lou Andrews, will attend the meeting in February; we're hoping that will encourage more HOA representatives to attend.

We won't have a budget, but the Live Oak president is coordinating an "associate membership" concept, which he has experience with in his job. It's, basically, a way to charge vendors, contractors, property managers, etc., an annual fee to attend meetings, make pitches and potentially drum up business.

With a bit of money, we will put up a nice website for info sharing (in the interim the plan is to use something like Yahoo



HOA Presidents Meet continued

Groups, or some other free venue).

I tentatively volunteered our Amenity Center for one meeting per year and Live Oak went along as well. We'll rotate around different locations throughout the year.

We're hoping that an increased representation before city and county officials will be well worth the effort; we're also looking forward to the exchange of information on contractors and vendors and just the sharing of experiences.



FALL FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

Thanks to volunteers and attendees alike, The Sanctuary's annual Fall Festival was a great success. Parents and their children enjoyed the bounce house jumping, games playing, cotton candy eating and pony rides.

A big THANK YOU goes to Grills and More for the delicious barbeque and also to the volunteers who made this event possible.





Closer to Christmas we also had an entertaining visit from Mrs. Claus. The children enjoyed cookies and juice while Mrs. Claus read some of her Christmas favorites including "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

We hope your children had a wonderful surprise under the tree from Santa Claus and look forward to this event again next December.

COMING UP... EASTER

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt, scheduled for Saturday, March 27, is our next event. We will be hiding a lot more Easter eggs this year with a separate area set aside so that smaller children have an opportunity to find eggs as well.

For this event and our annual Fall Festival to take place we need volunteers for the Social Committee.

Right now we need a chair person

and at least eight helpers. Please contact clubhouse@ thesanctuaryhoa.org to sign up.

Remember these events are put on for The Sanctuary homeowners benefit and it is not the responsibility of The Board to make it happen.

Reserve the Clubhouse

You, as a homeowner, can reserve the Clubhouse for parties. There is a \$50 charge for rental and a \$100 security deposit. Maximum of 25 people. Rental for residents only. Please call 407-971-9749 to reserve.

Cost Of Energy Report

Submitted by Roger Mauzey

As a result of my work on the Budget Committee earlier this year, I became aware of the \$40,000 (approx.) annual electric energy bill for Sanctuary facilities.

Most of that cost is for Amenity Center operations, followed closely by irrigation and fountains.

As a retired engineer, my instincts led me to ask the HOA Board for permission Continued on page 4



Cost of Energy

continued

to investigate these expenditures and look for opportunities to reduce the energy costs. The Board enthusiastically agreed.

So far, I have uncovered expense reduction opportunities which exceed \$12,000 in annual savings, much of which can be accomplished with little or no homeowner inconvenience or interruption of service.

To implement the changes necessary, technical details need to be investigated before final recommendations can be made. We are making significant progress, however, and it appears that we will be able to implement the cost savings by the end of the first quarter of 2010.

Covenants Corner

Real Estate Corner

By Lynne Boykin, Realton, Sanctuany Resident & Boand Member

Please allow me to introduce myself as one of the new members on the Board of Directors. I will be serving as a Director on the Board and look forward to doing my part in helping make The Sanctuary a great place to live. In addition to being on the

Board I am a member of the Covenants Committee. As you know, as part of my job as a Realtor, I send out a post card to the residents in The Sanctuary letting them know when a home has sold, and because of this mailing I've had a lot of inquiries regarding The Sanctuary home values so I thought it would be a benefit to write a quarterly update for Sanctuary residents and try to keep you informed.

While 2009 was undoubtedly one of the worst years in history of real estate with homes in central Florida losing value at 1.5% per month, I am encouraged by our 4th quarter. Distressed properties (bank owned and short sales) hurt our values as well.

Home sales soared in November due to the first time home buyers tax credit that has now been extended until April 30 of this year so we will continue to see a significant increase in home sales this year over last. Seminole County actually ended up with a 28.71% year end gain in sales over 2008 year end.

The year end average sales price of homes in Seminole County was \$187,495 while The Sanctuary was \$267,886.

The year end average price per square foot of homes in Seminole County was \$100.92 while The Sanctuary was



LYNNE BOYKIN, Realtor #1 Coldwell Banker Agent Oviedo 2007 & 2008

Cell: 407-587-9326

I **LIVE** IN THE SANCTUARY! I **SELL** IN THE SANCTUARY!

I live in this community and I care about the people and the neighborhood. I know the market in the Sanctuary and what it takes to sell your Sanctuary home. Please feel free to call me any time with any of your real estate questions or needs. I am never too busy to talk to my Sanctuary neighbors.

\$104.00 per sq ft.

In our zip codes 32765 & 32766 Oviedo/Chuluota, the total homes sold in 2009 was 202 with 43 being bank owned and 45 were short sales so 44% of the sales for the year were distressed properties.

The stats in The Sanctuary are a little higher with 48 total homes sold, 11 were bank owned & 15 were short sales totaling 54% in distressed home sales.

Although our year end price per square foot may seem low, I am very encouraged by the fact that I am seeing homes closing in The Sanctuary at \$113 & \$118 per square foot in the last couple months. If we can continue this trend, we will begin to see our home values rise.

I am hoping for stabilization in The Sanctuary in 2010 and will keep you updated quarterly.

While this is an overview of Seminole County and in particular The Sanctuary, if you have specific questions regarding your

> property, please feel free to call me and I'll be happy to answer any of your questions. I can be reached at: 407-587-9326 or you can email me at Lynne@IKnowOviedo.com or director2@thesanctuaryhoa.org



Covenants Corner continued

A Year Of Community And Cooperation

Submitted by Betty Mauzey, CEC Chair

et's make 2010 the year of community and cooperation in The Sanctuary. With courtesy and cooperation we can live in peaceful harmony with our neighbors in a place we can proudly call home.

The Sanctuary is a deed restricted planned unit development, not just a neighborhood that haphazardly evolved. If you did not receive a copy of The Sanctuary By-laws, Covenants and Community Standards when you purchased your home, they can be found on our neighborhood website at: www.thesanctuaryhoa.org.

Before making changes to the exterior of your property, neglecting your property, or doing something that interferes with your neighbors' enjoyment of their property, please adhere to the standards that make The Sanctuary a great place.

The Covenants Enforcement Committee (CEC) and the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) are great resources to assist you. These committees are just a click away on the HOA website.

You can email us with questions before you begin making changes to your property, or with questions and concerns you have.

If you prefer, you may contact Pinnacle Property Management at 407-977-0031 with a question or concern, as well.

Freeze damage: What a frigid couple of weeks with an almost unprecedented run of sub-freezing weather! Every Sanctuary home lost some plantings and most grass is browned out.

The grass should return in time, so will many of the shrubs

that appear dead. We recommend waiting until spring growth begins before doing any drastic trimming. The Covenants Committee will hold off on new citations for landscaping problems until then.

Those homes already in violation for dead grass still need to make some effort to resolve the problem.

Inspections: To help keep The Sanctuary looking its best, two inspections are made of all homes each month. CEC members tour the neighborhood and Pinnacle Property Management conducts a review of every home in the development.

With numerous foreclosures, it is difficult to keep up the appearance of the neighborhood, but the CEC is making every effort with limited financial resources to see that vacant properties are maintained.

With your cooperation, we can make The Sanctuary a superior neighborhood.

Painting: Before you paint the exterior of your house, trim, front door, or ga-



rage door, get ARC approval, even if you think you are painting the same color.

Color matching sometimes goes wrong. New ARC regulations require an ARC application for all exterior painting. An ARC application can be found on the website.

The ARC meets the 2nd Thursday, each month at 7pm at the Amenities Center.

There is an approved color palette at the Amenities Center from which to choose your paint colors. Samples are available to take to your paint supplier to have paint matched. The color palette presents recommended pairings of body and trim color, selected by our professional consultant, but homeowners are free to choose their own combinations — all together, we now have almost 100 body/trim combinations. Be sure to receive ARC approval for your painting proposal including body, trim, door, gutter, soffit and garage door colors. The ARC takes into consideration the color of neighboring homes. Homes painted

> without ARC approval could result in the home being repainted at the owner's expense.

> In reviving the original builder's color palette, we hope to reinforce emphasis on the original, professionally planned "theme" for our development. Given the impact of the harsh Florida climate on house paint, most homes will have to be repainted within a few years.

> As all new painting will be limited to the approved color book selections, The Sanctuary will soon return to the design scheme as originally planned.

> **Trash Cans:** Thanks to those who have found room for their trash cans in their garage or have submitted ARC applications for outside storage screened by landscaping or utility fences.

> > You may store the properly

Covenants Corner continued

screened cans to the side of your garage, but only with ARC approval.

Trash cans may be placed at the curb after sundown the day before collection and must be removed from the curb by sunrise the day after collection.

Parking: This remains a big issue for many members-not only those who don't want to put their vehicles away but also neighbors who want to see the streets cleared of these obstacles to safe navigation. See Sanctuary Covenants, Exhibit B, Use Restrictions, par. 22.

Please remember on-street parking is prohibited (short-term visitor parking on roadways is permitted for up to six hours). Otherwise, vehicles of residents and their guests are to be parked in garages and driveways. No vehicle with commercial signage may be parked in any areas other than garages except for short-term delivery or while conducting business at your home.

Overnight parking or storage of commercial vehicles is prohibited. So if you drive a commercial vehicle or own a commercial trailer it may only be parked in your garage out of site of your neighbors and the rest of the community.

Also, please refrain from parking on any lawn, landscaped portion of the Common Area, or any other area within the community that is not specifically designed and intended for the parking of vehicles.

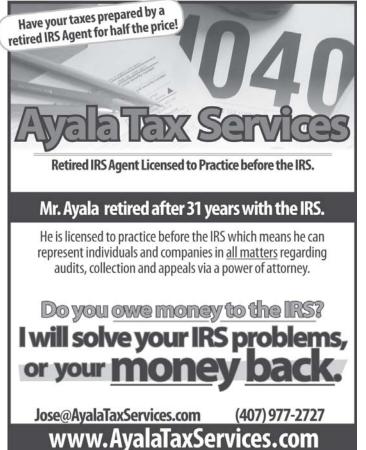
OPD can and will ticket cars blocking the sidewalk or parked facing the wrong direction (the officer normally will give the owner a chance to move the vehicle before ticketing).

We have received so many homeowner complaints on this parking issue that the Board may consider towing habitual offenders. Please be considerate of your neighbors! **Mailboxes:** Black mailboxes do not stay looking new forever in the Florida sun and with weed whackers hitting them weekly. If you are even the least bit handy, you can make your mailbox look like new with a can of Black Gloss Spray enamel paint, which costs under \$5 at any hardware store.

The most difficult part to painting your mailbox is masking off the numbers so they don't get painted. If you prefer to have someone paint your mailbox for you, contact Pinnacle Property Management. They have the name of an excellent mailbox painter.

Let's make 2010 the year everyone has a bright shiny black mailbox instead of the dull, peeling ones that now line our streets. Get together with your neighbors and have a mailbox painting party.

The CEC and the ARC are here to be of assistance to you in maintaining The Sanctuary as the "greatest place on Earth" to live.



Please email the Covenant Enforcement Committee (CEC), covenants.chair@ thesanctuaryhoa.org, if you have any questions about enforcement issues, or the Architectural Review Committee (ARC), at arc@thesanctuaryhoa.org with your questions about specific standards or restrictions.

Every homeowner has the right to report any violation and can remain anonymous when they do so.

Every member has the right to attend all committee meetings, as well. Covenants Committee meets the second Monday of every month, ARC on the second Thursday, both at 7 pm in the Amenity Center.



Submitted by Christin Hards, Landscape Committee Chair

he New Year ushered in some very cold temperatures this year, and plants throughout the community took a real beating. Not to worry though, the majority will come back, including all those tropical ones at the community pool. Remember to wait before cutting everything back, as the brown foliage will help protect the plant from damage, should we have another cold spell before spring sets in. Even the flower growers in the area experienced heavy losses and have resulted in the delay here at our community to get our annuals planted. In fact we are waiting to plant a few things till all danger of a deep freeze are gone.

2009 Projects to be completed are some hedges around Continued on page 7

Landscape Committee continued

equipment, and mainly our tree project. We hope you all noticed that this year the Landscape Committee voted to plant 80 trees throughout the neighborhood, mostly in common areas, but also in right of ways (the area between the sidewalk and street). This project was a goal of ours since the current committee was formed in January of 2007. It is our belief that trees would do a great deal in beautifying our community. There are many things about The Sanctuary we cannot change, but we surely can add visual interest by planting

trees. The trees break up "house after house" look, and cause the eye to focus on the trees verses the bare side of a stucco house. Unfortunately it is prohibitively expensive for the Association to plant trees in all Right of Ways. It is for this reason that we urge you to plant a tree in the right of way in front of your house.

In order to keep a consistent look throughout the community, we have limited the selection of trees that can be used. The following are acceptable choices:

Cathedral Live Oaks (Min. of 5' wide area is required)

Maintains Foliage year around.

Provides shade & majesty.

Crape Myrtles (Can be planted in almost any width area)

Single trunk crapes are preferred on the Heirloom Rose Place Multi-trunk are acceptable in

other locations.

They DO NOT require trimming (this is done to keep a particular height).

Only drop leaves for about 4 weeks in the fall berries stay on trees for the most part) One of the cleanest trees that require the least maintenance available.

Flowers

Can you picture McGuirk lined with flowering crape myrtles? Wow!

(Male) Queen Palms (Can also be planted in most narrow areas)

We prefer to have queens at the end of cul-de-sacs where there are ponds. We'd prefer to keep palms at a minimum throughout the community because they have a shorter life span and are susceptible to cold and require on-going maintenance as fronds become spent and trunks need to be cleaned up.

The Landscape Committee has negotiated quantity pricing. Please contact

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SokolowskiCleaning@Mail.com

Christin Hards @ christin@ehards.com if you are interested.

Additionally we hope you like the projects we have accomplished this year! Please see below our highlights!

- Amenity Center Pool Area (Summer 09)

 Included installation of sub pumps to drain planter beds of water they were holding due to inadequate drainage installed by builder
 - Included installation of curbing

 Included installation of turf on volleyball court

• Egret Ridge Monument (Winter 09)

Ravens Rook (Winter 09)

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 Main Entrance Clean-up (in preparation for fountiain install) (Fall 09)

• Landscaping of Lift Station @ Perigrine Pt. West (includes hedge and trees. Additional hedges to cover electrical equipment & 2 additional trees are still to come to complete project.)

• Installation of a total of 80 trees throughout community in common areas and right of ways.

Police Security

Several safety issues were brought to our attention by Oviedo Police Chief Jeffrey Chudnow at last year's February annual meeting and we would like to have your help again this year.

Please continue to report speeding and suspicious individuals to the Oviedo Police non-emergency number (407-971-5700).

The police department encourages residents to use this number when they are concerned for their or others' safety.

2010 Census To Begin

Submitted by John Ciesko, Vice-President

What is the Census? The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years.

The 2010 Census will help communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for things like:

- Hospitals
- · Job training centers
- · Schools
- $\cdot \;$ Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and otherpublic works projects
- Emergency services

The data collected by the census also help determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In March 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided.

If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit or a phone call from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form.

WARNING from the Better Business Bureau: With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. Eventually, U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. The big question is: how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a hand held device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification (picture ID) and their badge before answering their questions. You should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, you do not have to answer anything at all about your financial situation.

The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information **is NOT** with the Census Bureau.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, **the Census Bureau will not contact you by email**, so be on the lookout for email scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Be cooperative but careful. 🏚



Cold Weather Alert!

Submitted by Ryan - Grasshoppens You will see frost damage all over from the hard freeze that we had recently. Turf will brown from the tips of the blade down. Recovering damage in thick St. Augustine turf may appear as burn spots throughout the yard about 6 inches apart in diameter.

Frost damage cannot be corrected. It simply must grow out to recover. In severe cases you may see a zebra pattern on the lawn where areas look burned. On c e the weather warms up, mow your lawn to cut off old dead leaf blades and encourage new growth.

There are numerous factors at work that will determine how much injury your lawn and ornamentals will sustain from cold extremes. Due to these factors, your neighbor's lawn or ornamentals may not have experienced the same type of damage as you.

Temperature, alone, plays a big part, but there are other factors like wind speed and direction, type of turf grass (Floratam or Seville), whether the turf is wide open to the elements or insulated by tree canopy, just to name a few.

Also, if the turf is already stressed from injury, drought, or disease, it will be more susceptible to cold injury. You may suffer injury only in some areas of the lawn rather than uniformly throughout.

For example, your completely fencedin backyard may have remained intact during a windy cold snap, while the entire front yard, wide open to the wind, may have turned completely brown within a couple of days.

Your lawn should be well irrigated several hours PRIOR to the onset of cold temperatures. Winter air is relatively dry and can remove water from plants faster than the roots can absorb it. Water will act as an insulator and the saturated soil will keep the temperature above freezing, provided the freeze lasts only until the following morn-

Cold Weather

ing. DO NOT water your lawn WHILE temperatures are freezing. This will make the cold damage more severe, and can permanently damage the turf.

If water is allowed to freeze onto the grass blades and lateral runners, the water will freeze inside the cell membrane. As the freezing water expands, the cellular membrane ruptures and the plant tissue dies. The same process takes place during a HARD FREEZE, and little can be done to protect the turf.

Great care must be taken to protect your ornamentals, especially susceptible tropical species. Many palms, for example, don't do well in cold temperatures. Succulent shrubs like plumbagos, crotons, and gold mounds will defoliate almost overnight during a freeze.

We advise you to become acquainted with your landscape. Learn which shrubs on your property are most susceptible to cold injury. Have a plan in place to protect those shrubs as best you can.

You can avoid significant injury simply by draping the shrubs over with old blankets or other fabric other than plastic or tarps. Be sure to remove the plant coverings after the temperatures rise above 40 degrees.

Also, as with turf, thorough watering PRIOR to the onset of sub-freezing temperatures will help insulate many different tropical species. Your shrubs may still suffer some injury, but these precautions may mean the difference between faster recovery of an injured plant or having to remove dead shrubs and replanting new ones.

It may take several weeks to several months for some of the ornamentals and turf to show what needs to be replaced. Some of the trees, especially palms, may take a year or longer to show that they have been damaged to the point that they need to be replaced.



Protect Yourself Online Submitted by Jim Bardgett, CISSP, CCSP, BSE* We are going to look at computer and network security in an effort to hopefully present some new insight to protecting your family online.

Security involves lowering risk to an acceptable level by minimizing exposure. Here are several ways to reduce your risk online, but be careful as these changes can cause you to lose connectivity. Remember to consult a professional if you need assistance.

To secure your computer and network you need to look at the software and hardware that protects the information on your computer. If you have personal information on your computer or use it for online banking or accessing your company network here are things to check-by no means the only things to check or only products:

ANTIVIRUS: Norton anti-virus, McAfee anti-virus and others come with some Windows systems. Apple (ProtectMac Anti-virus) and Linux (Clam or AVG) need it less; due to sheer system numbers, the most popular systems get the most attention from people who write viruses. PcTools Anti-virus has a free version. You must keep this up to date, and it is best if updates are automated-this goes for every software package we discuss.

ANTISPYWARE: Some are guaranteed not to include any spying of their own. You can automate these processes running on your system and they have a mode to protect your computer which can be automatically engaged.

SOFTWARE FIREALL: A firewall generally will protect your computer from being accessed by people you don't know on their internet or over wireless. Several online providers offer a business firewall, something you should evaluate as part of an overall firewall solution. Windows products have a firewall, it's a good idea to engage it or get one that works for you. Ziff Davis recommended ZoneAlarms a few years back. It can be chatty at first and you have to want to learn what to accept and what to deny, but for people who want to learn or with a technical background it is worth a look. You will not be able to access the internet if you have more than one software firewall so be careful. Linux users can checkout Firestarter. Apple has a default firewall built-in.

HARDWARE FIREWALL: These can be purchased as part of your cable modem, wireless router or purchased separately. They need to be engaged and rules have to be configured like a software firewall. The most valuable function is statefulness. Seek out a firewall that is stateful, most are these days. Make sure that functionality is engaged.

WIRELESS: It is best if you can prevent your SSID from broadcasting in the clear and turn on technologies that will keep your data private. The best include WPA2 and WPA. As a second choice make sure you turn on WEP, it's not intended to be the only security, but sometimes it has to be used as a last result, because some older devices do not understand any type of WPA.

OPERATING SYSTEM: If your system has a method for regular updates make sure that you turn these on. Regular security updates are sent out by operating systems manufacturers. Microsoft does this weekly for Windows products.

BROWSER: Several methods exist to make your browser more secure. Regular OS updates mentioned before are a good start. Both Internet Explorer and Firefox have methods to secure your private information. Clearing private data will keep sites which collect it less able to gather information you have entered prior to visiting that site. For Firefox, "Tools, Options,

Protect Yourself Online

continued

Security" will allow you to turn off password saving and to tell you if the site you are visiting is a suspected "attack site." If you get a pop-up telling you the site is suspected of attacks, avoid it by having Firefox not load the site. Under "Tools, Options, Privacy" Firefox will allow you to turn off automatic acceptance of third party cookies, often a good idea. Selecting to always clear your private data when closing the browser will help keep your information private if other sites attempt to read the previous data you entered on another site. After going to your banking site, it is a good idea to clear all private data including cookies and completely quit your browser.

SITE BLOCKING: Site monitoring and blocking software is available from several organizations which can help keep kids safer online (Good Parents site: http:// www.wiredsafety.org/)

This article just touches the subject of online security. There is much more to learn. If you found this article of value, let the Board know.

The security committee requested that I give a presentation to parents interested in protecting kids online. So on Saturday, March 13th at 4 PM we will hold our first presentation for parents only. Please contact Pam or Kay at the amen center to sign up for this free event. There is much more we can cover, but it is better if it is covered in a meeting of parents without children present.

I also give a class called "Safe and Secure Online" by Childnet International, which is generally for 11-14 year olds at the schools. They have a strict training and background check for the instructors, which helps ensure the security of all involved. This includes direct feedback by both kids and teachers to the organization regarding the presentation and visit by the instructor.

Parents or teachers can contact a Board member who can forward the information to me.

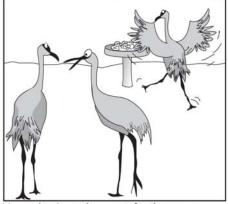
Note: All products mentioned herein are property of their respective owners.

*Homeowner Jim Bardgett, CISSP, CCSP, BSE, is a Seasoned Network Security Engineer, MS in Digital Forensics, student at UCF, Infosec 4011 and 4013, Instructor "Safe and Secure Online."

Lawsuit Update

Since no representatives of Sanctuary-Oviedo LLP attended the examination on December 7, 2009, the court continued the examination to January 5, 2010. For more information, please attend the February Board meeting.

Please Don't Feed the Cranes



He used to be such a great family man...now all he wants to do is belly up to the bird feeder.

The Florida Sandhill Crane is a designated "Threatened Species." Feeding them only endangers their survival by encouraging them to remain around people—not a good thing for wild creatures.

Cranes that live around neighborhoods get into more accidents with dogs, cars and people. Cranes that depend on humans for food tend to have fewer young, further depleting the population.

Hungry cranes expecting a handout can become a nuisance, pecking at windows and screens and people.

Feeding the cranes is considered, under state law, as harassment because it actually threatens their survival.



SUNDAY	MONDAY		WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8	1	Groundhog Day BUNCO 6:30pm	3	4	5	6
	7pm COVENANTS 0 MEETING 7:30PM FINING COMM	9	10	ال 7pm ARC	6	ß
Valentine's Day Chinese New Year	President's Day 5	Marti Gras 6	Ash Wednesday	6:30pm . OPEN FORUM 7pm BOD	SCRAP-I BOOKING 6-9pm	20
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SUNDAY		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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Daylight Saving Time Begins	4	6	16	St. Patrick's Day	6:30pm . OPEN FORUM 7pm BOD	SCRAP-9 BOOKING 6-9pm	First Day of Spring GARAGE SALE 8am-Noon
A	51	22	23	24	<mark>ይ</mark>	26	EASTER EGG HUNT 10:30am
Palm Sunday	8	Passover Begins	Passover 30	3			3723

SUNDA	Y	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	0				April Fools' Day	Good Friday	3
Easter Sunday	4	5	BUNCO 6:30pm	1	8	9	10
	1	7pm COVENANTS MEETING 7:30PM FINING COMM	0	ļĻ	5 7pm ARC	SCRAP-Ib BOOKING 6-9pm	N
Δ_	18	9	20	Administrative Professionals Day	Earth Day 6:30pm . OPEN FORUM 7pm BOD	З	24
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