

April 2016



"HIDDEN HIGHLIGHTS"

The Official Publication of Hidden Valley Ranch
Property Owners' Association, Inc. (HVRPOA)
Vol. XVIII, Issue 6 April 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Address: 7600 Long Drive
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Website: HVRPOA.com

Office Hrs: See new info on bottom right

Clubhouse Hours: 7:00 am to 10:00 pm
Activity Center: 7:00 am to 10:00 pm
Exercise Room: Open 24/7

2016 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Freilinger

Vice-President: Vern Drescher

Directors: Mary Crawford

Elaine Kekstadt

Jim Moore

Rick Radl

Mike Yost

Secretary: Judie Gustafson

Treasurer: Gayle Constable

A list of Committee Chairpersons (such as for Architecture, Maintenance, Dance, etc) is posted online and on the bulletin board across from the front office counter.

Hidden Highlights Editor: John Constable

Submissions: HVRPOA.com to attention of the Editor. **Next Deadline: October 20th.**

President's Message

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Membership Meeting and Appreciation Lunch on Saturday March 12th. There was a great turnout.

On behalf of the Board, I would also like to wish everyone a safe and happy Summer season.

Steve Freilinger, President

Summer Resident Board Members:

Mary Crawford

Elaine Kekstadt

Jim Moore

Of course, with today's technology, any and all Board Members are just a Cellphone call, Skype, or E-mail message away.

MAR 12 VOTE RESULTS

Number required for quorum: 269

No. in attendance + absentee votes: 416

1. 2 votes per assessed lots? 90.1 % approval
2. Convert gate mechanism? 95.3 % approval
3. Park buy proximity cards? 93.9 % approval

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Rest of March: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. weekdays
(but closed Good Friday & Easter Monday)

Month of April: 9-11 Tue and Fri only

May – August: 9-11 Mondays only

GOOD NEWS!

FYI to those who left: As I type, (on Mar 22st), the "Blacktoppers" are paving Western Road!

NOT SO GOOD NEWS!

Re: Moving citrus and other fruit from the valley.

On March 19, the Monitor newspaper posted an article concerning Citrus greening and the Mexican Fruit Fly. Anyone owning fruit trees in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties is required to **remove all mature fruit from your trees** due to problems with this pest. Do this by early April. If necessary, give the fruit away, but do not leave mature citrus on the trees to rot and attract pests.

Before leaving Hidalgo County for the North, **any fruit which you plan on taking with you must be inspected** and certified by the USA Department of Agriculture.

For more information, visit one of two websites: www.hungrypests.com or www.saveourcitrus.org

The main USDA office is: 2514 S. Veterans Blvd. Suite 4, Edinburg. Their number is (956) 383-4928 ext. 4

NOTER REPUBLICS ??

Oops, I mean NOTARY PUBLICS

HVR is fortunate to have not one, but **two Park Members** who are qualified Notary Publics. They can handle many legal matters for free, and their commonly requested services are listed below, in a "clip-and-save" format.

HVR Notary Publics

Lila Helm (507)377-2008
7609 Par

Sallie Remington (509)539-3510
2406 W Bogey

Most commonly requested services:

- Warranty deeds
- Title transfers
- Affidavits
- Rental agreements
- Medicare enrollment

No service fees, but photo ID is required.

OPEN HOUSE = CLOSED DEALS!

As a result of the Park's very successful Open House recently, several properties have sold, and / or have been rented out for next Season.

The Park extends a **Warm Welcome** to all new owners / members / renters in HVR, the "Best Park in the Valley".

But do they know...

If you have purchased a new lot (or are renting one for ANY length of time) and have not yet done so, you must stop by the office to complete the necessary forms required to update our database. Also, please bring proof of age (ie, driver's license). HVR is a registered 55+ senior housing community and is legally required to maintain adequate records on our residents.

THINKING OF RENOVATING?

New Park owners (and anyone else) wishing to make any exterior changes to their HVR property (such as erecting or expanding any type of awning, deck, enclosure, handicap ramps, shed or casita, or having any amount of concrete poured) are reminded that they need to **first seek approval** of their plans from the HVR Architectural Committee, then obtain proper permits from the County, and show these permits to the HVR Committee **BEFORE** proceeding with any changes. Post your permit.

Packets which set out Park and County rules and regulations, and answers commonly-asked questions, are available at the Office.

Over the Summer, the Architectural Committee will **switch to a "meet only as needed" basis**. Contact people/numbers are posted by the Office door.

GOT GAS ?

April 8th is the last day for convenient tri-weekly delivery (MWF) of propane throughout the Park. Over the Summer, call for special delivery.
381-0123 Pony Express

HVR's BREAKFAST CANCELLED

Mar 25th (Good Friday). See you in the Fall.

NEW HVR PASTOR

Cliff Stewart has taken over as the Pastor of Hidden Valley's Church Services, as of Feb 28th. He and his wife Connie hail originally from Pennsylvania, and later from Colorado.

Pastor Stewart felt God's calling into the Ministry in 1995, first serving in the Truckstop Ministry and more recently in a Church in Donna.

His hobbies include motorcycling and archery, and Connie enjoys sewing and keeping in touch with their 3 grown children and numerous grandkids.

They have rented a place in HVR for next year, which will make him more readily available for anyone wishing counseling. (Actually, Cliff says he's available until they leave RGV mid-April). 970-302-7033

HEART RANGERS

We still operate over the Summer!

HVR is the ONLY Park in the Valley to offer these vital services to ANYONE in the Park, whether Owners, Renters, or Guests:

- Assist the ambulance to find your lot
- Assist gathering your meds & File of Life
- Assist locking up your house
- Drive the spouse to the hospital
- Pet sit pending other arrangements
- Call family or a neighbor at your request
- Apply CPR if necessary

Basically, we assist in any way you wish.

In case of Emergency

1. Dial 956-213-3002, and when the message prompt ends, enter your lot number.
2. Hang up and dial 911. Tell them you live in Hidden Valley Ranch at the end of Western Road in Palmview. Tell them your street, and your house and lot numbers.

J'Ever Notice.....

.... Common sense isn't as common as it used to be.

.... and nowadays, NORMAL is just a setting on a dryer.

POOL TOURNAMENT WINNERS

HVR was well represented in recent competitions and our members walked away with more trophies for their efforts this year.

Representing HVR in the **WTAA 8-Ball Singles**, Wanda McGill placed third.

Representing HVR in the **WTAA 8-Ball Doubles**:

(Women's) Norma Scott & Jean Clossen
finished second

(Men's) Gord Unger & Chuck Enns
finished second



L to R: Nancy, Wanda, Jean

Gord, Chuck

Representing HVR in the **Upper Valley Pool League**, the HVR Tuesday Team finished third.



L to R: Guy Mills, Cliff Northland, Stu Jones, Herb McGill (Captain), Larry Fox, Duff Mago, Louie Cagler, Roy Hamilton, Gord Unger, Chuck Enns,
Absent: Bill Hill

HVR Congratulates Y'all !

LETTERS / E-MAILS / COMMENTS

Letters for publication in *Hidden Highlights* must be signed, but names can be withheld upon request.

Editor reserves the right to correct spelling & grammar, and/or condense wording to fit into the available space.

About refrigerators...

In last issue's tips on closing up our places over the summer, you had mentioned leaving the empty fridge doors open. While that might be OK for older fridges, my Appliance man told me not to do that for the newer models that have those magnets in the rubber seal around their doors. The heat (and magnet weight) might stretch the rubber, preventing a good seal upon return. He said to keep the doors of those types of newer models closed, and put crinkled newspaper sheets inside. - S. Schnelle

Ed. Reply: I didn't know that, but it makes sense. Thanks for the info!

I guess I'm OK with my old cottage fridge, though. How old is it, you ask? Let's just say "harvest yellow". Do y'all remember those (and the avocado green and copper/bronze fads of the same era)?

About jigsaw puzzles....

John, I've been talking to people about having an ongoing puzzle table at one of the buildings in the Rec center. It would be a good gathering point for social interaction. Is there a way for you to mention this topic or solicit input for the puzzle table? - V. Swincki

Ed. Reply: I have heard others talking about that as well. The thing is, where could it go? All the tables in the main hall and back hall areas get moved around too often for the various activities. The Activity Center is used for cards, music classes, crafts, computer classes, etc.

The library and noisy laundry rooms have no space, and the "internet lounge" (the old office) is being promoted as a quiet room for computer users (and weekly Architectural Committee meetings).

So, there really isn't an unused corner anywhere to permanently designate for puzzles.

Having said all that, if a spot can be found, there are such things as puzzle roll-up sheets which would allow for temporary removal of an incomplete puzzle when the space is needed.

Anyone else have any other ideas?

About the Ladies Luncheon...

Thank you, Marge (Ford), for inviting us to perform at your Ladies Luncheon. We had a wonderful time and enjoyed entertaining you all. They were a great audience, and we especially liked visiting with audience members. We look forward to seeing you again. - Dale & Gayle

About hot dogs...

I received the "Hidden Valley Highlights" and I saw a notice in the "highlights" saying that HVR is having a member's appreciation luncheon after the meeting. If you don't attend this meeting, you have to pay \$2.00. Shame on you, I pay my dues. This is nothing more than a meeting tax. To make a meeting more required. Shame, Shame, Shame on you!!!!!! - Name withheld

Ed. Reply: First, I'm not sure to whom this is directed. If it's at me, I'd say: Don't shoot the Messenger. I print the info I'm given.

Secondly, as you may know by now (but too late to remove from publication), it was decided to offer the luncheon free to everyone.

Lastly, you said, "I pay my dues", not "We pay our dues", suggesting that your letter spoke only for yourself. I do hope your concern about having to pay \$2 for the luncheon did not arise because you were not going to bother to attend the Park Meeting. Because if you weren't...

Shame, Shame, Shame on YOU!!!!!!

About our Board....

As newcomers to the Park, we are very impressed with the commitment and dedication of the Board members. They put in more hours than any volunteers should ever be asked to do. Kudos to each of them! M. & K. Gautier

.... I like the fact that the Board is more open and transparent at their meetings, seeking input and keeping the members well informed of matters at hand. J. Roberts

.... When I read the Treasurer's credentials on her Candidate's Bio sheet, I figured she could handle the job. I have not been disappointed! T. Forbish

.... I think the Board is doing a fantastic job! R. Kling

CAUGHT IN THE ACT:



Member Appreciation Luncheon (Mar 12)

UPDATE on DON FLETCHER

Many of you know Don and Gerri Fletcher, and of the struggle Don is having with mouth cancer. Gerri sent HVR an update:

Hi. Don is still having problems even after the radiation. However, we have so many people praying for him that he has to get better. He is taking speech therapy so everyone can understand him.

Sure hope we can come to Mission HVR this Fall. We miss our friends and neighbors.

Let's keep him and all other ailing members (our HVR "family") in our Prayers.

HVR DIRECTORIES

The 2016 Directories, with member's names, addresses, and phone numbers are available at the Office. Cost: \$ 1.00

NOTE: There is now the need for several directory additions from new owners. As well, members are asked (perhaps once again) to **please bring any errors, omissions, or changes to our attention.** It is hoped that a new(er) directory will be issued in November.

ANDY LANDERS ADVICE for Men

Men, when a woman says, "Correct me if I'm wrong, Dear....", DON'T DO IT! It's a trap, men! DO NOT, I repeat, DO NOT correct that woman!!

SUMMERTIME YARD CARE

Again, residents are reminded that **all lots** should be cleaned of palm tree fronds and citrus fruit rotting on the ground, to deter bugs and rodents, which in turn attract snakes.

As well, weeds must be kept under control. It is surprising how quickly the summertime weeds can pop up through the gravel rocks and thrive, despite the summer heat.

Please **make arrangements** with someone to check on and maintain your yard clean-up and weed control, spraying when necessary.

Complete the office form naming your "yard care" person. Without a contact name, you run the risk of forcing the Park to have to hire someone and send you a bill.

There is an **updated list** of some service providers posted in the Clubhouse.

TRUE OR FALSE TEST

There is a Winery on Western Road.

True or False?

If you said FALSE, you would be wrong. Well, partly wrong (and partly right, but let me explain).

If you look on a local map, you'll see that Western Road picks up again after the gravel pit and continues North. And, yes, there is a Winery way up on the dirt road part of that other section of Western.

Technically, though, that section of the road is called N. Western Rd., so no matter which way you answered the Test question, you were right.

Let's raise a glass to those kinds of tests!

DID YOU KNOW.....

The pink cherry blossoms that are currently in full bloom in Washington, DC were originally a gift from Japan?

In 1912, Japan sent more than 3,000 seeds to be planted near the Potomac River as a symbol of friendship between the two nations.

The trees survived; unfortunately, the friendship (as you know) in 1941 didn't.

POOL and HOT TUB CONCERNS

Smile, you're on camera !

Members are reminded that they must **accompany ANY and ALL their guests** to the Pool Hall and to the Swimming Pool area. This is for their safety, as well as for HVR's legal protection should damages or accidents occur.

This is especially true for your grandkids in the swimming pool area. God Bless them with all that energy they possess at their young ages, but some of these unsupervised kids think it's OK to run around on the wet deck, or dive into the pool.

The temptation is also strong for them to think it might be fun to add shampoo to the hot tub, turn on the jets, and watch all the bubbles arise, but that would be a costly mistake. It would be an expensive ordeal if the Pool Maintenance Contractor has to drain the hot tub, scrub it down, replace the filters in the system, and refill the tub with water. Those costs could be passed on to those negligent parents or grandparents.

Remember, folks, we just paid big bucks to upgrade the security cameras. Their Pool actions are being recorded from three different angles!

Your grandkids might be perfect in your eyes, folks, but the new cameras can clearly - VERY, VERY CLEARLY - show a different story!

Be Safe! Be diligent! Accompany them!

Reminder, too, about SPEEDING

The Park streets are actually county roads with posted **speed limits of 15 mph**. Everyone should obey this limit with all types of vehicles.

Grandparents are again reminded not to let their under-aged grandkids drive their golf carts when they visit. Do not believe for one minute that they will continue that slow speed once they're around the corner and out of your sight.

Are they joy-riding late at night without you even knowing? Hide the golf cart keys when you go to bed. Make their Summer visit a safe one!

J'Ever Notice.....

... how easy kids have it today? When we were young, we had to slog through nine feet of shag carpet to change the TV to the only other channel we could get (after first adjusting the steel wool on the rabbit ears antenna).

Summer Socials

April and May Socials are listed on the attached calendars, current only up to printing deadline. Other events may be organized later for these months, and for June through October months, so watch for postings with details and/or sign-up sheets on the Clubhouse Bulletin Boards. Contact Barb Frantz or any other organizer for further information and/or to help out. The more volunteers for each activity, the more fun organizing it!

As the electricians in Holland know, "Many HANS make light work!"

WANTED: OLD HVR PICTURES

2017 will be HVR's 20th Anniversary, and lots of celebration plans are in the works. One idea is to do a "Photo Share Day" in January.

Anyone with pictures from those early HVR years, please dig them out, pack them up now, and bring them back with you.

This should make for an interesting nostalgic look back at "The Way We Were" for everyone.

WANT TO LEARN TO QUILT?

Karen Eck says quilting is still going on Tue & Wed now and throughout the Summer. With less quilters around, it's a good time for them to help you learn how to quilt and/or use your sewing machine better. Come to the Clubhouse!

Home- Care Visitors Wanted

Do you like to bring smiles to the lonely?

Legacy Home Healthcare & Hospice is searching for friendly people to join with them in visiting with patients in nursing homes and assisted-living facilities here in the RGV area. Just to talk, lend an ear, wheel them outside for some fresh air, or read to them. Most of them never see a visitor, and you could brighten their day (and yours) in immeasurable ways!

You can offer to do this as often, and for as long a stay, as you wish. Legacy will provide training (the "do's & don'ts" during your visits.)

If interested, call Mari Ortega 956-621-6941

Do some good for THEM and for YOURSELF

SUMMER VOLUNTEERING

We will need volunteers again this summer, so we would love for you to consider helping out.

The SFCC (Summer Fun Club Committee) members have learned that volunteering can be a lot of fun. Here's 10 ways that we do it:

1. We make a list of things that need to be done, so you can choose which tasks you would like to help with.
2. We are clear about what each task entails, so you know what has to be done.
3. We never criticize you if something is not done "our way". We acknowledge that everyone has their own way of handling how to do a task.
4. Some tasks can be done at your own home. That's okay.
5. If you can only volunteer one hour's time, we don't ask you to stay longer.
6. We want you to enjoy your volunteering, so you won't be given tasks you don't like
7. We love having your input. We know you're smart, and we can learn from you.
8. If you're not sure how to accomplish a task, we'll help you.
9. We are always grateful and thankful for any help we receive.
10. We encourage you to bring a friend to help you if you wish.

Join in! Help Out! Have Fun!

HERE AND THERE AROUND TOWN

Contributed by Barb Frantz

March 25th - April 10th - Tyler, Texas the 50th Azalea and Spring Flower Show. CALL 1-800-235-5712 or visit www.visittyler.com for more info.

March 31st - Taste McAllen - An outdoor night of fine dining and live music at the McAllen Convention Center on Thursday evening from 6 - 9 pm. Pre-sale tickets are available at the McAllen Chamber of Commerce located at 1200 Ash Avenue, McAllen. Ticket price is \$25.00 per person. For more information about Taste McAllen contact the Chamber at (956) 682-2871.

April 1st - Music after Hours at Archer Park - located at 101 N. Broadway, McAllen for the arts and crafts fair from 6 - 10 pm. This event features vendors with an interest in arts, specifically handmade arts and crafts.

April 1st - 3rd - RGV Home and Garden Show 9 - 6 at the McAllen Convention Center

April 2nd - McAllen Chamber of Commerce Annual BBQ Cook-off. Event is held noon - 5pm at 1200 Ash Avenue, McAllen. Cost is \$15.00 per person and tickets can be purchased in advance at the McAllen Chamber of Commerce office at 1200 Ash Ave. Armbands are provided the day of event to all patrons to sample the different competitors at the event competing for prizes by the chamber. For information call (956) 682-2871.

April 2nd - 27th Annual Texas Onion Fest 2016. Scheduled for Pena City Park, Weslaco. The Texas Onion Fest celebrates the development of the world famous sweet Texas onion which was developed in Weslaco. For more information and time schedules contact Weslaco Chamber of Commerce at (956) 968-2101 or visit www.weslaco.com.

April 2nd - Jackson Street Market Days on Jackson Street between 4th and Commerce in Harlingen held the first Saturday of every month. You can shop for treasures at an old-fashioned open-air street fair with antiques, collectibles, crafts, produce, and food vendors. Live Bands. Free and open to the public. For more information call (956) 216-910 or visit www.downtown-harlingen.com

April 6-10th - Disney on Ice at State Farm Arena. Shows: 6th, 7th, & 8th @ 7:30. Sat 9th @ 9, 11:30, 3:30, 7:30 Sun 10th @ 1:30, 5:30 Tickets \$21, 31, 48, & 58 from SFA box office 956-843-6688 or Ticketmaster 1-800-745-3000

April 7th Valley Symphony Orchestra - The final major works concert of the 2015 - 2016 VSO Concert Season "EUROPEAN MASTERS" will be at 8:00 pm at the UTRGV Performing Arts Theatre located at 1201 W. University Drive, in Edinburg. Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.valleyorchestra.org or calling (956) 661-1615, or stop by the VSO Box Office in Suite 104 of 200 S. 10th St., McAllen (Chase Bldg.)

..... Continued on page 8

AROUND TOWN, continued

April 7th Senior Summit Health Fair at Boggs Events Center located at 3000 N. Cage Blvd. PHARR. Hours of operation 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. For more info call (956) 928-0060.

April 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - Thursday Market - from 11 am - 1 pm in front of the Rio Grande Valley Food Bank located at 724 N. Cage Blvd, Pharr.

April 8th - 17th - Montgomery County Fair - Conroe, Texas. Located on Airport Rd, Conroe. Directions: take rt. 105 West to FM336 turn right and go to Airport Rd. or take Rt45 North to FM336 turn right and then left into Airport Rd.

April 9th - Pharr Hub Festival at 3001 N. Cage Blvd. Pharr (West side of Rt 281) Margarita Showdown all day starting at noon with bands starting at 5 pm. Free admission , only cost is drinks & food. Call (956) 403-4000 for more info.

April 9th - 10th - Bluebonnet Festival in Chappell Hill, Texas - Main Street off RT290. Info (979)836-6033 or www.chappellhillmuseum.com.

April 15th-16th and May 13th-14th - Livingston Trade Days - A treasure hunters delight in an outdoor market held on the weekend before the third Monday of the month at Pedigo Park located on Highway 59 north, 3/4 mile north of highway 190. Take exit 434D. Hours: Fri 9-5 and Sat 9-3. For more info see www.ubhookd.com or call (936)327-3656.

April 15th - 16th - 100th Annual Oyster Bake - San Antonio, Texas - for more info visit www.texasfairsandfestivals.com

April 15th - 17th - Antique Alley Texas 30+ miles of shopping. Located from Grandview to Cleburne, Texas Call (817) 240-4948 or visit www.antiquealleytexas.com for facts.

April 16th - 10th Annual "Vida Verde" Earth Day Festival at Quinta Mazatlan. Located at 600 Sunset Drive, McAllen. Hours of operation are 9:00 am - 4:00pm. For more info, visit www.quintamazatlan.com.

April 21st & May 19th - Grapevine in Gruene, Texas - Third Thursday of each month, enjoy complimentary tastings of three wines and one select craft beer plus music, prizes, and food

samples. Gruene Historic District Grapevine. Call (830)606-0093 or www.grapevineingruene.com

April 21st - Alfresco Jazz Festival - Downtown Weslaco- free to the public. Held on the third Thursday of the month. Located on Texas Blvd Weslaco between Old 83 and 4th Street. Hours 6-9 pm. Info: (956) 969-9838.

April 21st - LaJoya - Alejandro "Alex" N, SAENZ Performing Arts Building located at 604 N. Coyote Blvd, LaJoya.. DeZavata Middle School and Chavez Middle Schools present "Super Heroes" at 6 pm. Call (956)323-2895 for tickets and more info.

April 29th - May 1st - Texas Sandfest - Port Aransas, Texas - Downtown on South Allister Street, Port Aransas.

May 6th - 7 pm LaJoya ISD Annual Mother's Day Mariachi Concert located at 604 N. Coyote Blvd, LaJoya. Call (956)323-2895 for more info and tickets.

May 13-14: See Apr 15-16

May 13-15 Fiesta De Mayo. 60+ Mexican Artisans. Edinburg City Hall Courtyard 415 W University Dr. Info: www.edinburglibrary.us

May 19: See Apr 21

May 27th -30th - Memorial Day Sale at Mercedes - Memorial Day sidewalk sale at the Rio Grande Valley Premium Outlets located at 5001 E. Expressway 83 (Exit Mile 1 East), Mercedes. Hours of operation are Fri, Sat and Mon 10 am to 10 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 7 pm. For more info call (956) 565-3900 or visit www.premiumoutlets.com/riograndevalley.com,

Tuesday Rio Grande Valley Premium Outlets Discount - Receive an additional 10% savings on Tuesdays by presenting 50+ proof of age at participating stores. For a list of stores, visit: www.premiumoutlets.com/riograndevalley or stop by their Information Center for current list.

For **festivals and state fairs of Texas** call 1-888-459-2993 or visit www.festivalsoftexas.com

Ed. Note: Barb has agreed to do a column like this each month next Fall. Great summaries of places to go & things to see! Thanks, Barb

TRAVEL HUMOR

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road. As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride. With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car. Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally. 'What in bag?' asked the old woman. Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband." The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said, "Good trade....."

The Final Word....

This is my fourth edition of this newsletter since I stepped into the job in late December. I do enjoy the role, and I appreciate the (mostly) favorable comments from our Park members (and from members of several other Parks who apparently also now read it).

I want to give a special thanks to my wife, who double-checks my initial draft copy before it goes to the President for his approval prior to publication. Gayle scans for any overlooked grammar errors I may have missed when proof-reading (such as switching verb tenses or a missed closing bracket, both errors of which I'm deliberately doing in this paragraph. Notice?

She also picks up the occasional sentence that could be misinterpreted by others, and suggests another way of wording it. One example of this is from the January Issue concerning seeking volunteers to help the new Craft Show Coordinator. Lacking space to say all that, Gayle suggested the final draft simply say, "Help her out.", which sounds better for Sue than what I originally had, which was, "She needs help!" See, it's all in the interpretation, Folks!!

Still, some people do misinterpret things I write and/or they will read into them things which were not intended.

As well, not every mistake gets picked up. Did you notice two Feb 29ths on that Feb. calendar? In last month's article on "Hints for closing up before heading North", did you notice I said if you unplug your fridge and open the doors, you may have to unscrew the light. Well, duh, John! If it's unplugged, the light wouldn't come on now, would it? It should have said if you just turn off your fridge, rather than unplug it. And, as someone informed me, even that may have been bad advice no matter which way it was written. (See Letters to Editor)

Several people have asked me where I get my ideas for the articles. I just keep my eyes and ears open. When I overheard someone in the pool wondering why the chlorine was still present, I did an informative article on that topic. When I heard people repeatedly asking what a proximity card was, I did an article on that. When someone told me about the possibility of citrus tree smut transfer, I wrote about that. When I saw neglected places for sale with layers of dust, sealed-up shutters, and rotting fruit on the ground, I listed suggestions to remind the owners to improve the curbside appeal for an upcoming open house.

I try in each issue to provide a mixture of items: information articles, articles of interest (some of which may have nothing to do with the Park, but I hope are interesting to read just the same), and, yes, I mix in some humor here and there to break up what would otherwise be just a droll listing of information on upcoming events – which are necessary, of course, to keep members informed of activities, but by themselves make for pretty dry reading material.

I adapt some articles I read elsewhere, or that are sent to me via e-mails, so I am always on the lookout for ideas or articles from others. Send me some leads, folks!

On the other hand, I am also reluctant to follow through with some suggestions I've been given. Do we really want Sudoku puzzles, local restaurant reviews, horoscopes, or a list of members celebrating birthdays or anniversaries each month?

Let me know what you think of these ideas.

Meanwhile,

See Y'all in the Fall. - The Editor