

Prestancia Pipeline

THE PRESTANCIA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2007

Dog Day Afternoon

Everyone knows that Prestancia is a dog-loving community, and what better way to spend the day but with...dogs? Pictured here are a group of Manor residents who "woofed it up" at a party play date with their canines. Standing left to right: Kathy Cook, SaraBelle; KH; Tom Cook with YorkiePoo Suzie; Steve with Scotty; Peter Lombardo; Marion Lombardo with Murphy Bison; Joyce Banholzer (partially hidden by pole); and Joyce's daughter Carol with Bison Baxter. Seated: Barbara Leifer and PBGV Griff.



*Russ Seifert,
PCA President*

And Now, A Word From Our President

Marilyn and I were sitting on our patio this morning and I commented that I needed to write this column today. She said at least I had a beautiful day to write since the temperature and humidity were both down. Then it hit me. Winter is here. Fall has come and gone. Summer is over. We year-round residents have made it through another one. Regardless of what the "experts" said, we did not have a hurricane for the second year in a row. Sure it was hot — and sure it was humid — and boy was it dry. We actually had a full month without a drop of rain. But we survived, and with the help of our Landscape Committee, our landscape maintenance company, and especially our irrigation company, we not only survived, but really had very little damage to our beautiful green landscape. Yes, we lost some patches of lawn and some shrubs and flowers, but not too much. Yes, we are having some problems with some palm trees but on the whole, Prestancia looks lovely and green. Now what happens? Well, cooler weather is coming, our Northern friends have returned, and the hustle and bustle of the "season" is upon us. The birds are here everywhere — every imaginable species including our national bird, the Bald Eagle. Soon the white pelicans will return. Life is good in our beautiful Prestancia.

Judge John J. Sullivan

April 21, 1913–Oct. 2, 2007

Prestancia offers condolences to the family of Judge John J. Sullivan who died Oct. 21. The retired state appeals court judge lived in The Manors with his wife, Margaret, who predeceased him in 2004. It was through the practice of law that longtime lawyer and former state Appellate Court Judge Sullivan believed people stood the best chance of realizing justice in this country. In more than 60 years in the legal profession, his work led him to the top of the field as the head of local and state bar associations. He helped people who were arrested during the riots that followed Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s killing and was instrumental in getting state lawmakers to lift a \$30,000 ceiling on wrongful-death awards. He enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and served in World

War II. He was commissioned a lieutenant commander and met another naval officer, future President Richard Nixon. The two were in competition to head an invasion into an island heavily defended by the Japanese. Judge Sullivan and Richard Nixon each wanted to head the invasion with their unit. The commanding officer tossed a coin and Sullivan won, his daughter said. After his military service, he returned to Chicago to lead a professional life that helped solve many social issues. In 1973, the Illinois Supreme Court appointed Judge Sullivan to the Illinois Appellate Court where he remained for 15 years. The Sullivans moved to Sarasota, Fla., after retiring in 1994.

A Word From the Editor

Just a few thoughts to share. We're in need of news! We love profiling interesting residents and welcome story ideas. If anyone has an idea or wants to be featured in this newsletter, please write me at *pipeline.editor@comcast.net*. Photos are especially welcomed and can be mailed with photo captions to 7339 Regina Royale, Prestancia. JPEGs (electronic photos for the technology savvy) are especially welcomed. In the past I have tried to interview people one-on-one for human interest articles, but my professional work limits the time I can spend on volunteer efforts (this newsletter!) But again, I welcome any submissions from readers. I am also looking for an editor's assistant who can take photographs and contribute to developing stories for this publication. Julie Wyman has a column (Philanthropists), but any other column ideas are welcomed, too! Second, we have a new website that is very beautiful and very informative

(*www.prestancia.org*), but we want to expand the website to include a "Community Section" that can include important documents that homeowners can download, a calendar of events for community parties, notices, and anything else of importance that can be accessed easily by residents who have computers. Please consider contributing to the new online site. Mara Villa President Dot Baker already has the ball in motion and hopefully the rest of the homeowners' associations will come on board. There is a small fee to have your documents included on the website and to have our webmaster update changes as necessary. Call or write Clive Burnett if you want to know the nominal fee to have this service. This method truly streamlines the communication process within Prestancia! Looking forward to hearing from you!

Andrea Martone, Pipeline Editor

NOTICE: The Palmer Ranch fees for 2008 will be billed through the Prestancia quarterly invoices.

Neighborhood News

After many years of discussions and many months of intense work, the Estates have a new set of Governing Documents. These documents including Protective Covenants, Articles of Incorporation, and Bylaws were unanimously approved by voting residents at a meeting concluded on October 4, 2007.

— Russell J Seifert, *Estates*

Work continues on the Manors' Governing Documents revisions. The documents have now been reviewed by counsel and distributed to all members for review. A Town Hall meeting was held October 23rd to address any further questions; approximately 40 members attended, and several additions and changes will be reviewed by the committee shortly.

Interest in common service (discount) pricing by Manors members as indicated in a recent survey is high enough to warrant bid solicitation from vendors to negotiate lower prices for participants. A committee has been formed to interview service providers.

As noted in a recent Deer Creek newsletter, two new palm diseases, lethal yellowing and Texas Phoenix palm decline, have been found on Palmer Ranch. Many different types of palms can be affected by these diseases. The recommended treatment is three-times yearly injections of a substance called OTC.

A number of Manors' residents are very active in fund-raising causes for humanitarian causes, and we want to highlight and congratulate work done over the past year by Herb and Ruth Jones. They have raise the money necessary to purchase a Toyota Land Cruiser for a medical clinic in Honduras. This vehicle will now allow the clinic's medical personnel to travel to outlying areas of Honduras and treat people who cannot get to the clinic itself. Again, they have our congratulations and thanks.

On a creative note, Kathy Cook of the Manors is preparing a collection of her beautiful handmade jewelry and fused glass vases and dishes for several upcoming shows. Kathy is also available for private showings of her work by appointment, and can be reached at 923-1909 or kcook2@mac.com.

— Barbara Leifer, *The Manors*



Enclave resident Linda Redd, above, watches over the planting of the flowers on the pedestal where the new fountain was planned. The photo below shows the new fountain in all its pomp and splendor!



We are completing another successful year at Villa D'Este. After spending all our money on hurricane resistant roofs, garage doors, windows, etc., we went through the hurricane season without testing them. Who is complaining?

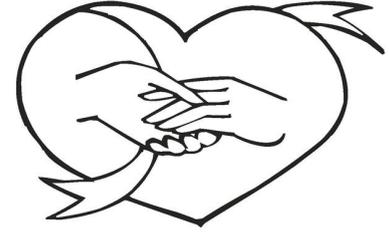
Earlier this month, we elected a new Association Board and the President is Dan Phillips (dasaryp@comcast.net). After all the improvements we have made to our neighborhood, it is hard to believe that the new Board will find new areas of improvement and upgrades but we are sure that they will find some. We recently received some "bitter/sweet" news. Our long time neighbors and "plank owner" residents of Villa D'Este; Mary and Bob King, will be moving to a smaller, more manageable home not far from Prestancia. Mary and Bob are well known in Prestancia and TPC and we will all miss them very much.

— Tom Rempe

The “Philanthropic Life”

By Julie Wyman

Meet...Judith McChesney



“Multiple Sclerosis cannot dim the spirit of Judith McChesney,” says the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, which awarded Judith with its Unsung Hero Award in 2003. The goal of this award is to recognize ordinary citizens who serve their communities in extraordinary ways and to encourage others to follow these examples of community service.

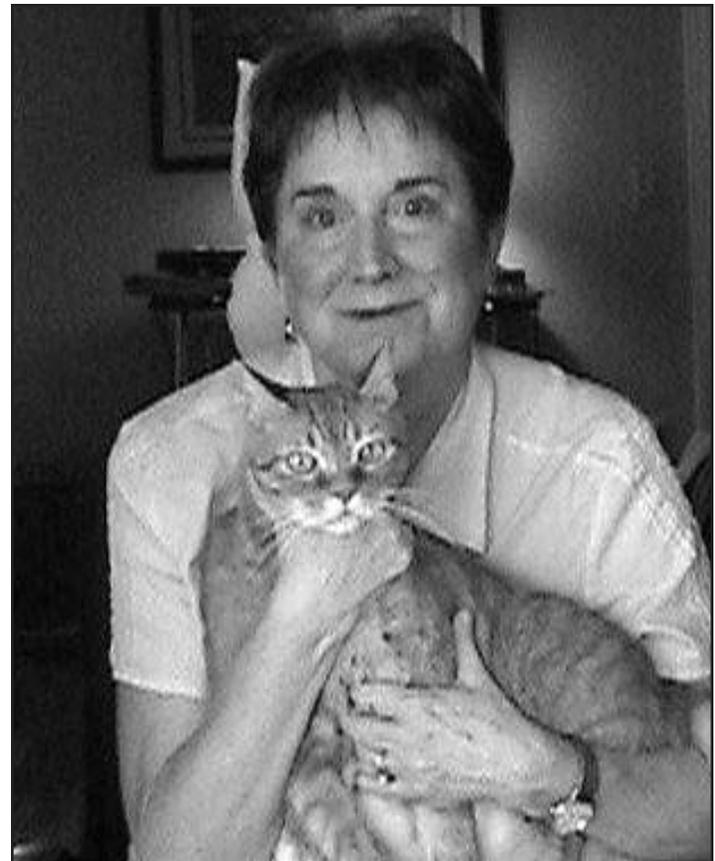
A former nursing administrator, Judith and her husband Dennis moved to Sarasota and The Manors seven years ago from New Jersey. “As my MS progressed we found there were many more services for the disabled in Florida,” explains Judith. Not one to slow down, Judith has overcome her own pain and difficulties to inspire others to improve their lives. While she was still able to drive herself with a hand-control van, she taught literacy to struggling adults and study skills to under-achieving high school students through the Literacy Council.

Judith continues to be involved in her community, volunteering two days a week at Selby Gardens. She works in the reception area greeting people and explaining the Gardens to them. “Selby Gardens gets many international travelers and they often ask me about other places and things to do in Sarasota. I really enjoy talking with all these different people.” After much thought, Judith decided she wanted a pet to keep her company. Medical research reveals that pets help safeguard physical, mental and social well-being in all us humans. She decided on a cat because they are easy to care for and do not need to be walked. Judith contacted a neighbor to help her find the perfect companion. The neighbor had recently seen a fabulous cat at Petsmart. They Googled Sarasota County Animal Services and Judith could see the cat for herself as well as check out others. “It was a

bittersweet search — there are so many cats and dogs looking for homes,” says the neighbor. “Judith has saved a special life.”

“I named my new cat Fred,” says Judith. “He is a senior cat who had been at the shelter for over a year as most people want a kitten. Fred is a beautiful orange tabby and is already bringing me much love and joy. I highly recommend pet-ownership and adoption from a rescue shelter!”

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County and Sun Trust Bank recently hosted a luncheon discussing “The Human/Animal Bond: How Pets Enhance Our Lives and Pet Trusts” — Judith and Fred are perfect examples! Please email with other philanthropy profile ideas: julie4cats@gmail.com



PCA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Russ Seifert — President • Don Awbrey — Treasurer
Karen Rushing — Vice President • Jim Poole — Corporate Secretary

Committee Chairpeople

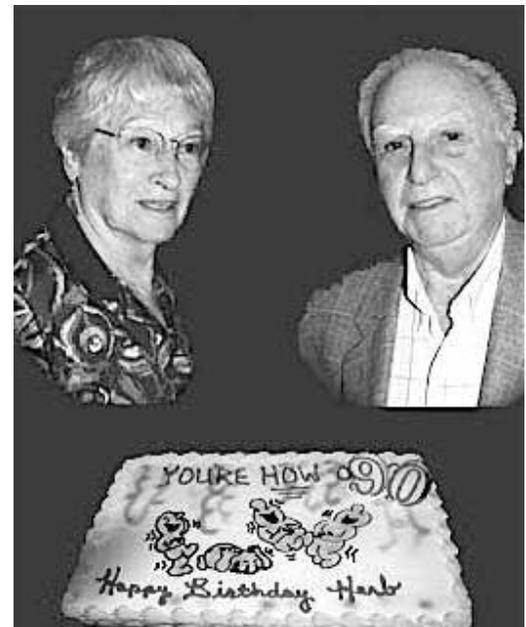
Bob Swan — Committee Chair/Design and Development Board
Chuck Holmes — Landscape

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Happy Birthday, Herb!

TPC was the scene of a grand celebration on November 13th for the occasion of the 90th birthday of Herb Horowitz, resident of Valencia. Herb is also an active participants on the board of directors of Valencia. Cocktails and dinner were hosted by Herb's gracious wife, Isabelle (you'll remember that this couple was profiled in an earlier issue of *The Pipeline* for the theme, "Couples with Longevity"). Family and friends came from as far as Rhode Island for the special evening.



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I'd like to let my fellow Prestancians know about a potential Homeowners/Windstorm Insurance premium reduction which, in my opinion, could be of value to most if not all of our fellow Prestancia residents.

Recently, I was informed that all Florida homeowners would be well advised to have prepared a "Wind Mitigation Report," as issued by a qualified inspection service whose charges were said to typically range between \$100–200, in support of possibly reducing one's homeowner/windstorm insurance policy premium.

While initially skeptical of the suggestion because our home was built in 1991, prior to newer building codes, and did not currently have "hurricane shutters" installed), I did discuss this idea with my insurance agent here in Sarasota, Ken Tracey. He completely agreed that it was worthy of pursuing and suggested a qualified inspector, Mr. Steve Rosenbaum (P.E.) of In Sight Inspections (4332 Pine Meadow Lane, Sarasota, FL 34233; telephone: 941/224-9030; e-mail: *insight inspections@verizon.net*), who usually charges \$90 for the "Wind Mitigation Report" preparation. Mr. Tracey emphatically stated that he is encouraging ALL of his clients to take this proactive step.

To the Editor:

Prestancia has many tennis players living throughout Prestancia who do not play golf but are members or play tennis at the fabulous tennis and fitness center — Serendipity! Even better — those who ride bikes or Segways do not even have to go out on the public streets because the Tournament Players Club and Country Club of Sarasota — where the Serendipity Racquet club is located — is connected by a bridge!

Best Pet Contest: Put Your Best Paw Forward!

Sarasota Magazine is currently sponsoring a wonderful "Best Pet" contest. People are encouraged to go to www.sarasotamagazine.com and nominate your pet as "Sarasota's Best." Prizes include a special "Mr. Chatterbox Online" video, two free tickets to Animal Rescue Coalition's "Best in Show" Gala on February 16, 2008 which will take place at Michael's on East. All the winners will be honored at our gala as well. www.arcsarasota.org

The referenced inspection was performed for \$90 on September 11 at our home and the report was presented, via e-mail, a few days thereafter. Once the report was submitted to State Farm Insurance Company, via our local insurance agent, our new annual premium was reduced by ~33% (i.e., ~\$1800), effective November 2007, without any coverage modification or reduction.

I have shared this information with several Sarasota-area friends and fellow Prestancia residents. Some have chosen to pursue this avenue. Those who have done so have enjoyed immediate annual savings within the range of \$1500 to \$3000.

While I cannot assuredly say how a similar report might affect those owing condos, the evidence certainly attests to its applicability to owners of single family homes. I believe our fellow Prestancia residents and/or the respective condo management companies serving the Prestancia community should look into how they might benefit.

Additionally, for further information, please refer to <http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fdem/mitdb/index.cfm>

For the record, please know that I do not receive personal gain (financial or otherwise) for offering this suggestion.

**Kind regards,
Jeffrey Converse**

Many members of Prestancia are team captains as well. Members include David Banholzer, Dieter and Ingrid Breloehr, Aurora Cameron, Tom Carter, Margrit Dobbertin, Joan and Stephen Engel (Team Captain), Bruno Eisner, Kelly Franz, Jane Jones (Team Captain), Pam Kroeger (Team Captain), Vi Page, Rita Pfeifer, Debbie and Wayne Seidl, and Julie and Sam Wyman. We are sure there are many other Prestancia homeowners playing tennis at Serendipity. We are so lucky to live here on this beautiful golf course PLUS have great tennis right next door! Please email julie4cats@gmail.com and let us add you to our list!!

Julie Wyman, The Manors

Time to Say Goodbye...

What a marvelous sixteen years it has been in Prestancia! Even now, I am still in awe of the beautiful surroundings, the stunningly beautiful homes, the great variety of wildlife...Prestancia is absolutely a shining jewel. I'm very proud to have been a force in creating and maintaining that singular, rarified ambiance. Prestancia is most definitely a community unique in Sarasota.

I hesitate to think of the thousands of hours spent in Board meetings, the acres of pages of meeting minutes I've written, phone calls, email answered. I'm tired just thinking of those things!

When I first visited Prestancia, McIntosh Road wasn't finished and the only fully constructed neighborhood was Villa D'Este. I've had a front row seat in watching the community grow and mature. The past few years have been a renaissance of improvements, upgrades, changes and remodels. During the real estate boom, I had thought I would witness the first of the tear-downs. That day will come.

I've wondered about how Prestancia will look in ten years, fifty years — in another century. She will age well, I think, if you take care of her.

Although community association management is supposed to be about buildings and landscaping, it's really about people. Since 16 of my 21 years in this industry were with you, the people of Prestancia are the ones who stand out.

Most of my time was spent with good souls, those who volunteer their time and energy for the betterment of their neighborhood. Those special people on committees and boards never receive the appreciation they do deserve. Whether you agree with their actions and opinions or not, DO thank the members of your board. Unless you've been in their shoes, you can't imagine the hours, frustrations, and optimism of those who have stepped up to set policies, make decisions and take responsibility. Tell them you do appreciate their work. I guarantee they will be appreciative, and most likely surprised to be acknowledged.

It's also about relationships. I do so treasure the trust you've given me. For many of you, I know about your children and grandchildren, your frustrations and joys, your fears and disappointments. I've wept at too many funerals, but danced at birthdays and anniversaries. Babies were born, weddings witnessed, illnesses overcome — all of the normal, everyday life events in any small town. Much of that life involves change and I am flattered to have been a part of that. The greatest compliment you have given me is to stay within the gates of Prestancia when life changes require a move. You all do seem to love Prestancia, as I do.

So, it's time to say goodbye. I started Barlow Group, Inc. in the corner of my living room almost exactly twenty years to the day before the business was sold.

I am amazed at the energy and enthusiasm the new owners of Barlow Group have shown in just a short time. Clive and Zoe Burnett have such a zest for this business! With fresh eyes and new ideas, they will serve you well, most likely better than I have.

So, yes, The Barlow Group, Inc. has been sold. I simply want to do something new. Management was actually my second career and there is time in my life for a third. What that will be is, at present, a large unknown. As I go rushing headlong and full speed toward uncertainty, at least I do know it will be another grand adventure!

Goodbye!

Jone Barlow Weist

A welcome to new Barlow Group owner Clive Burnett!





I LOVE PEOPLE!

Soirée for Singles

Friday, February 15, 2008

TPC Club House, Prestancia

Who would know best about the social needs of the communities, Prestancia included? Just ask Andrea Martone (Pipeline Editor) and Joni Weist (formerly of the Barlow Group, Prestancia's Management Company).

That said, the idea of **bringing people together who are single for a great evening of entertainment and social schmoozing** is coming to fruition. Save the date for Friday, February 15 when we host the first "I Love People Soirée for Singles" at the TPC Club House in Prestancia. **Open to all 50-plus-year old singles (divorced, widowed, or "in between" relationships)**, the evening will be designed to be interactive, lively, casual, and to give a wide range of age groups a chance to get to know your neighbors in both the Prestancia community as well as those living in other neighboring gated communities within the Palmer Ranch properties.

At this writing, we're looking to have an **entertaining mixture of comedy and music for the event, and let's not forget FOOD**. We love to eat, and we love to schmooze (New York slang for "chat"), and there is no greater thrill than to bring good people together who might otherwise not have the chance to meet.

Look, this is NOT just another singles event. This is an evening where you will find like-minded female friends who might want to play bridge or Mah Jong, see a movie, have dinner out with the gals once in a while or start local book clubs. For men, are you looking for male golfing partners? Dinner partners? Bicycling trips and adventure travel? Or perhaps you're looking to meet a member of the opposite sex for comradere purposes? Whatever you're looking for, give us credit for putting together this evening on *your* behalf. **And you don't have to be a member of TPC to come to this event, either.** Nor do you have to live in Prestancia (remember, it's open to other neighboring gated communities). If you want to bring a friend who doesn't even live in Palmer Ranch, FINE! The more, the merrier.

How much, you ask? **\$55 per person cheap!** And that includes **full entertainment, a full dinner buffet, with dessert and coffee** (cash bar to keep costs down). Taxes and gratuities are included in this, too! Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. and we'll close the place down. Sound good? And don't think twice about coming solo to this event. We're all here to welcome you and make you feel part of our "family." You won't be "stuck" at any one table. In fact, you'll be too busy mingling and participating in activities that will give you an opportunity to meet other people who share the same vision — meeting other lovely people and expanding your horizons here in Sarasota.

Tickets in advance by sending a check made out to Intuitive Vision Network, 7339 Regina Royale, Mara Villa. **Deadline for reservations (limited to 100 people) is January 21.** If you want to pay by credit card, visit the web at www.ticketweb.com, or call **1-866-666-8932, option 1**. No printed tickets will be issued; your names will be put on a list at the door the night of the event. Want to talk more about this? Email Andrea, PipelineEditor@comcast.net, or Joni Weist (Prestancianna@yahoo.com). See you on Friday the 15th!



Disclaimer: This event is a private party that is not affiliated in any way with the Prestancia Homeowners Associations, Prestancia Board, or the TPC Club.