

Fall Edition  
2012

# THE BRIDGE

Rustic Hills Property Owners Association  
PO BOX 437 Palm City, FL 34991



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## ELECTION DAY November 6, 2012

### Exercise your right to vote!

Our polling place is now at the Immanuel Lutheran Church on Martin Downs Blvd. There will be early voting the week before Election Day (at the Board of Elections building) and of course there are absentee ballots. If you have any questions, or need help obtaining forms, call Deena at 220-0694



**PHOTO OF THE MONTH  
BIG BIRDS AND LITTLE BIRDS!**

## Heard Around the *HILLS*....

### Get well wishes to our neighbors:

-Dawn Stenger underwent back surgery, and is now well on the road to recovery!

-Gary Caruthers has been ill, and is also on the road to recovery.

-Doug Whichello has also undergone treatments. Our thoughts are with you Doug!

-Joe Dondero has been relocated to an assisted living facility.

His daughter Annie wrote the following: "My Dad is living in Allegro (Indian Street East of Willoughby) like a Rock Star. The place is really pretty and he can come and go as he wishes....People can visit, too. He is in Room #160, the place looks like a cruise ship/Grand Floridian Hotel. He is adjusting pretty well."

**School is back in session! DRIVE CAREFULLY** and look out for our kids walking to their bus stops!

**WELCOME BACK** to our seasonal RESIDENTS. Enjoy your little piece of paradise here in Rustic Hills!

**The PHANTOM will not be back this year.** It is sad to cancel this fun event, but last year many phantom bags were taken off mailboxes before the owners could get them. Also many masks were taken. Not only did this cause confusion, but it cost several residents quite an output of money. (See the following page about current vandalism in Rustic Hills)

### **REMEMBER:**

**CONTACT THE BOARD...**if you plan to build a sea walls, a dock, a boatlift, or if you're planning to remove trees close to the water.

**NO WAKE, please!** We've been getting complaints about boats going through our waterway **TOO FAST!**

**2013 BOD ELECTIONS:** If you are interested in becoming a member of our Board of Directors, please contact us! We would love to see some new faces. If you don't want that commitment, please try to **VOLUNTEER** for one of our committees. We always need help!

## RUSTIC HILLS

BE PROUD!

*Flushing billions of gallons of water out to sea hasn't stopped [Lake Okeechobee](#) — and South Florida flood concerns — from rising. [The Army Corps of Engineers](#) since Sept. 19 has been draining water from the lake to ease the strain on the Herbert Hoover Dike, considered one of the country's most at risk of failure. Discharges to the east and west coast dumped about 11 billion gallons of lake water out to sea as of Saturday, according to the Army Corps. That's enough water to fill nearly 17,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools.*

*Five years of construction aimed at strengthening the lake's ailing 143-mile dike has cost taxpayers more than \$360 million and the work remains far from finished. The dike rehab so far has focused on building a reinforcing wall aimed at stopping erosion on a 21-mile southeastern portion that's considered the most vulnerable to a breach. A study aimed at determining how to proceed with dike repairs is expected to last until 2014.*

*Draining lake water helps protect the 70-year-old dike, but it also wastes lake water relied on to back up South Florida water supplies during the typically dry winter and spring.*

*In addition, dumping billions of gallons of lake water out to sea has damaging environmental consequences on coastal estuaries; threatening fishing grounds and water quality in prime tourism territory.*

*Oyster reefs, relied on as vital habitat for a multitude of marine species, are already suffering from the infusion of lake water that throws off the delicate mix of saltwater and freshwater in the [Indian River Lagoon](#), according to Mark Perry, executive director of the Florida Oceanographic Society in Stuart. Sea grass beds could be next. Algae blooms and fish kills could follow if lake discharges grow. "They are having detrimental effects," Perry said. "It's really a concern."*

*Water once naturally overlapped the southern shore and flowed south to replenish the [Everglades](#). Now flood-control measures that made way for development and Lake Okeechobee farming corral the water and flush it out to sea when the lake creeps too high up the levee.*

*The Army Corps contends that the lake water releases are at least slowing the rise of the lake.*

By Andy Reid, Sun Sentinel, October 2, 2012

## COMMITTEES

**Roads:** Most of the potholes have been filled in. We are looking forward to the next phase of roadwork as oil prices are finally coming down (affecting “blacktop” costs).

**Canals:** The Canal Committee has completed quite a lot of sand removal. Remember we only remove sand from the channel. Please do not speed and cause wakes! We have also noticed that quite a few of your Lawn Maintenance companies are blowing the grass cuttings into the canal. Please, if you see them doing this, ask them to STOP!

**Sunshine/Newsletter Committee:** The Sunshine Committee has very limited funds; Funds are raised by our Newsletter advertisements and greetings. Please help us by advertising or buying a greeting.

STILL NO FEED BACK ON A GARAGE SALE OR IRISHFEST....

REPLY TO:

[RHPOA-1@COMCAST.NET](mailto:RHPOA-1@COMCAST.NET) IF YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST

## COMMENTS FROM THE “HOOD”

A home on Covered Bridge has been the victim of malicious mischief and an orange life ring was stolen from in front of the house. Two boys were spotted around the home. It is sad to think we have to worry about this kind of thing in Rustic Hills where everyone tries to have respect and responsibility for the well being of the entire neighborhood. Of course our neighborhood watch is in effect and a neighbor can identify the culprits. As neighbors, we would prefer the parents take action prior to the police being alerted.

Recently there has been a number residential burglaries throughout the county and Treasure Coast. They come up from Broward County and hit unoccupied houses. They drive new cars, either stolen or rented. There are usually two or more cars involved. The suspects are 16 to 19 years old, male and female.

They normally hit between 7 AM to 1 PM. They normally dress neat. They enter the house by either prying open the front door, or smashing in a back sliding glass door. Once inside the house, they go right to the master room, get a pillow case from the bed and put whatever they can inside it, mainly jewelry, guns etc. then leave the area.

Last week in Palm City a newer model Audi convertible got stuck in a swale attempting to leave the neighborhood. As the Deputy arrived and noticed the vehicle, a black male and female were standing by the car. Both had different stories and a newer model white vehicle left the area. Seems like several neighbors tried to help the people out. 2 houses were burglarized and the Audi had jewelry from the houses in the car.

So far this week, we have had at least 5 residential burglaries. As I am typing this they just had another in Palm City, Highlands Reserve.

Things that we all could do is: To be aware of your surroundings, if something doesn't look right call 911. If you see a person or vehicle that caught your eye and looks suspicious, call 911. Have your neighbors look out for one another and report everything. If you see anything that looks suspicious call 911. If you can get a description of a vehicle, tag numbers really help.

**"It is amazing the speed at which people drive past our house before entering the bridge. It is common to see cars & trucks going at least 40 to 45 MPH. Someone is going to lose their dog or much worse a kid some day"**

ADS: (This issue special is \$7 for personal, \$12 for business cards)

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