

Cheval Neighborhood Newsletter

March, 2019



Our tenacious and resolute investigative reporting team has been diligently tracking down some historical leads regarding the neighborhood.

The team found Volume I - Issue 1 of a publication called "The Quarterly," "The Venice Golf and Country Club Master Association and Property Owners Publication."

It is dated May, 1995, just about 24 years ago.

Even then, there was apparently confusion among the members about the Homeowners Association and the Club and their respective communications efforts.

From the Quarterly:

"The Quarterly vs. The Legend

The targeted audience of the Quarterly newsletter is the Property Owners of the Venice Golf and Country Club. The content relates to matters associated with the VG&CC Master Association and the various VG&CC Neighborhood Associations. The "Legend" is addressed to the Equity Owners/Members and Associate Golf, Sports and Social members of VG&CC #1, Inc. The content of the "Legend" relates to the activities and services associated with

the golf course, tennis courts and clubhouse as well as the activities of various VG&CC social organizations."

Such confusion may still exist today. For example, who operates and controls the ponds on the golf course?

At that time, 1995, Cheval was still controlled by the developer, but transition was in progress.

Bill Dohl had been elected Cheval Board President, and he wrote this:

"Cheval neighborhood has been working to address all necessary measures leading up to the transfer of responsibilities for operating their association from the Developer to Cheval Property Owners.

A meeting of property owners was held during which all questions and concerns were listed. A Nominating Committee was appointed to select candidates for a Board of Directors to represent the property owners. The Committee presented 7 candidates. By secret ballot, the following were elected:

Cheval Neighborhood Newsletter

March, 2019



Bill Dohl-President

Jack Epperson-Vice-President

*Doris Gerstenkom-Secretary and
Treasurer*

*Jack Small and Bob Harris-
Directors*

Another meeting was held with the property owners with a representative from the Developer. All questions were reviewed and answered.

The target date for the transfer of responsibilities has been set for January 1, 1996.”

So, Bill Dohl was our first President, and we were “born” on 1-1-96.

As an aside, that publication is now called the “Community Views.”

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The annual meeting of the Members was held at the Clubhouse on March 1st. It was good to see a nice turnout from our neighbors with about a third of our memberships represented.

Highlights:

Rich Bartholomew thanked Barb Hayes for her years of service to the neighborhood while serving on the Board. Barb is now a Board retiree!

Also thanked were the Rich Street staff and Patt Everett and the Elvettes for the holiday decorations at the monuments.

It was noted that two of the six neighborhoods decided to no longer retain ArtisTree as their landscape and maintenance service provider. The Board reviewed the alternate proposals, and while a monetary savings appeared to be possible, there is considerable “extra” work ArtisTree provides to us at no cost. So, we decided to stay in touch with the success, or not, of those neighborhoods and to continue with our agreement with ArtisTree.

Carolyn Gold reported on our finances. We have about \$15,000 in our reserve account, enough to cover failures of our wells, which are our key assets. We had a surplus in

Cheval Neighborhood Newsletter

March, 2019



2018 primarily due to tree trimming savings. By a vote of the Members, that surplus was carried forward to 2019.

It will be important to have that surplus this year in that 2019 will be the year we incur attorney fees for the neighborhood documents completion.

There was discussion about a situation that some homes have as a result of the maturing of the neighborhood and the annual mulch application. Where certain plant beds meet walkways and driveways, mounding has occurred, and when new mulch is applied, it has a tendency to blow or run off onto those surfaces. Rich Bartholomew has submitted a request to ArtisTree for solutions.

Note: subsequent to the meeting, ArtisTree did respond. There is no "neighborhood" solution. It will be up to individual homeowners to work out solutions where needed. This has been covered in an email to our members.

Pat Lardinais is joining the board.

Welcome, Pat!

It was noted that a request has been made to our roof cleaning service provider to have a "green" alternative available this year.

Following the annual Member meeting, the Board met to hold its annual organizational meeting.

The following officers were elected:

President – Rich Bartholomew

Vice-President – Gary Cleary

Treasurer – Carolyn Gold

Secretary – Pat Lardinais

The following committee chairs were named:

Finance – Carolyn Gold

Grounds and ARC – Brooke Murphy

Newsletter, Legal and Bylaws – Rich Bartholomew

Cheval Neighborhood Newsletter

March, 2019



Brooke Murphy will form a committee that will conduct a thorough review of the neighborhood guidelines to ensure that they conform to the new MA documents, if passed by the MA Members, and to ensure they are in keeping with the evolving growth of change in the VGCC and our neighborhood.

TRUTH OR FICTION, YOU DECIDE!

Back in 1996, believe it or not, golf carts had been invented and were in use here at the VGCC. But those were more genteel days, and Club members did not have the indignities now imposed upon them. For example, the walk from across Fieldstone where their cart might be parked to the clubhouse was apparently deemed intolerable, insufferable, and by many, unacceptable!

Editorially speaking, the following is a service that we, the members, should demand to be brought back at once.

“Carts parked in the driving range area will be provided valet service by the cart barn attendants.... back to the Clubhouse....” “Cart owners will be furnished a “VALET PLEASE” card that they will display on their steering wheel.....”

Cart owners were advised to back their carts into the parking slots, and instruction was provided as to how to manipulate that pesky switch with the **R** and **F** symbols. Training was not mandatory, but apparently a number of residents participated. The training was free. Once parked as required, *“Cart attendants will then be able to assist in locating the remainder of your foursome and transferring of their bags.”*

Apparently the grounds must have been considerably more extensive then, and members often wandered about aimlessly seeking their partners, that is, at least until an attendant tracked them down.

Discussions about implanting mini-GPS' into members got little traction, apparently because a GPS at that time weighed about a pound.

Cheval Neighborhood Newsletter

March, 2019



And here's an interesting tidbit: "With the *PRIVILEGE* (our emphasis) of private cart ownership has come the issue of adequate parking for our member owned carts." Well, that problem has been solved, thank goodness. We only see carts parked on the overflow grass next to Fieldstone on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and occasionally on Sundays. On Fridays, parking seems adequate!

Members were also asked: "if possible or when practical, please attempt to *cartpool*," a solution born of necessity, apparently.

Kick back, if you will, be reflective, and envision men here in knickers, "puttees" (long stockings), bunnet hats, and kiltie shoes. Then picture the women in dresses to the ground and wide bonnets to shield their fair faces from the unrelenting, harsh Florida sun.

Can you conjure up a picture of all hitting their jiggers, niblicks and mashies? Ah, the nostalgia! Be it too much to bear?

"TRUTH OR FICTION, YOU DECIDE!"

In this very rare case, we will inform you.

Setting aside the embellishments in the editorial comments and sartorial resplendence depictions (term from Howard Cosell), everything in quotes and italicized is 100% fact. It is from a special "Legend Update" from October 7, 1996.

It is sub-titled, "Your finger on the pulsebeat of what's happening when."

Don't we yearn for those kinder gentler times? That one minute walk from the range to the Clubhouse is becoming a real killer, isn't it? We'll need to continue to hit the fitness center just to survive it! Where's my valet?

Our science department has assured us that cameras had been invented by 1996, so our history staff has been instructed to find pictures from then to confirm our conjecture about the attire. We will let you know of their findings.

Spring has sprung, and the weather is warmer!

Let's all enjoy the beautiful Florida outdoors!

Until next month....

The Cheval Newsletter Staff

