

Cheval Neighborhood Newsletter

October, 2018



It is October, the Newsletter's summer hiatus is over, and our staff is back and hard at work.

Your Board has been busy over the summer approving the renewal of our ArtisTree contract, approving numerous ARC requests, developing a Cheval information packet for both new and existing residents, and working on the budget for next year. The information packet should be out soon.

New roofs are going on at an increasing rate, and we're seeing quite a variety of new colors on those roofs. Roof cleaning went well, and we hope to offer a "green" solution for 2019.

The prototype pond bank behind the #11 green seems to be holding up very well, and the 3 foot "no mow" zone is being maintained quite neatly by ArtisTree. As a reminder, if anyone notices erosion on a pond bank, the Master Association office should be contacted. For your calendar: The 2019 annual meeting of the Cheval members has been set for March 1, 2019, 10:00 AM at the Clubhouse. Hope to see you all there.

With Halloween upcoming, the staff thought a disturbing little Venice ghost story might be shared with our readers. Spoiler alert: You may never again look in your rear-view mirror. To start, here is a brief 14,000 year history of Florida in two sentences. While the earliest inhabitants of the Florida peninsula can be traced by artifacts back about 14,000 years or so, it wasn't until 1513 that Juan Ponce de Leon named it La Pascua Florida. It was another 332 years before Florida became the 27th state in 1845.

So unlike other US areas such as Salem, there is not a lot of history that lends itself to ghostly stories. But that did not deter our intrepid and perseverant research staff, and after much searching they uncovered the following rather unsettling local story.

In 1960, the Army Corp of Engineers had not yet turned the City of Venice into an island. It was a rather quiet little town, and besides the beach, there wasn't a whole lot to do. Still, it was the 60's, and kids in Venice did what kids everywhere did, they cruised.

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And so, with the stage set, on to the ghost story.

Enter one Frank Jehan of Venice, born in the late 1800's. Frank was a 6-day motorcycle endurance racer. Such races are still held today, but there are very few. The 6-day race is much like the bicycle Tour de France, but on super-steroids. Endurance racers were and are a unique breed, and Frank was at least a little famous within his avocation. He won a few races along the way and had some name recognition, at least among motorcyclists. It is said that Frank sadly died as he rode, on his motorcycle. But apparently even after death, Frank was not yet ready to give up his rides.

Center road was not exactly like Sunset Strip in California back then, but it had the one quality needed for cruising, it was a road. It was a dirt road, but a road nonetheless. It did extend all the way to River Road, but there was nothing built east of Venice Gardens, which was just being developed.

There was no Winn-Dixie, no school, no churches, no YMCA, no traffic lights, no VGCC. But it was there for cruising, albeit with few spectators other than cattle. Eerily, the locals insisted that as they cruised Center Road, they fairly regularly would see a red light behind them, the red light being Frank's bike's signature feature.

At times he even tried to run them off "his" road. But, alas for Frank, his spectral bike was no match for their Dodge Chargers and Pontiac GTO's, let alone that occasional Edsel. But we give him two thumbs up for trying.

And so, the next time you are "cruising" Center Road, you should always be looking left, right, and forward of course, for Center road is hardly a dirt road anymore. But if you look into your rear-view mirror, beware, the red light could be there, following, watching, waiting.

Or..... it could be the Sheriff.

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QUICK INFO ABOUT THE CLUB AND MASTER ASSOCIATION

Make a note: The club will hold a neighborhood forum on November 14th at 2:00 PM in the clubhouse. Updates by the Board and committees, coupled with an open forum for the members to comment and ask questions, always lead to a lively session!

If you are looking for some great Thanksgiving pies, consider the Club. You can order cherry, apple, pumpkin or pecan, 10 inch, for \$13. If you price around for high quality pies, that's pretty good. If you really want to go for the gusto, order the pumpkin cheesecake for \$25, a mere 7,823 calories per slice. That's 62,584 calories in the pie. We'll save you the math. We ARE kidding of course.....these pies are great! There is only one Thanksgiving each year, go for it and indulge yourself!

And if you are into do-it-yourself, Chef Jay has a recipe in the November Legend for pumpkin crème brulee.

The "new" newsletter from the Master Association has been out a couple of months. It is greatly expanded and now offers quite a broad view of what's going on at the MA. There are committee reports from each of the committees, and the office team also provides information on what they have been working on. Take a look.

You will receive an email each month when the newsletter is published.

And finally, here is a tidbit our news team picked up from the Legend:

"Microsoft found that since the year 2000 (or about when the mobile revolution began) our average attention span dropped from :12 seconds to :08 seconds. The attention span of a Goldfish is :09 seconds."

One must wonder, then, what the attention span of the goldfish was back in 2000!

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Hold the date!!!!

November the 8th, around 4:00 PM.

A neighborhood party is planned!

More to follow.



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