

AROUND THE SQUARE

Following the latest news and views from Serenoa

SPRING, 2023

VOLUME 2.1

SERENOANS WELCOME THE SIGNS OF SPRING



Eight Ways to Prepare your Landscape for the Spring Growing Season.

Inspect shrubs and trees— Search for any branches that might be damaged or broken and prune them or have them eliminated by a professional.

Test your soil— Test once every few years to ensure it has the appropriate mix of nutrients and pH balance. Your landscape or lawn care professional can assist with testing.

Fertilize your lawn— Fertilization needs are dependent on the nutrition needs required by your soil conditions.

Fertilize shrubs and trees— Foliage will benefit from appropriate fertilization, along with a slow-release product that is used before mulch is applied.

Control weeds— Spring is a good time to spread pre-emergent weed control.

Clean up planting beds— Rake the old debris and leaves from plant beds and rake in fresh topsoil as needed.

Add a thick layer of fresh mulch— Add 1-2 inches around trees and in plant beds. Mulch not just makes planting spaces look neat, but also aids in retaining moisture in the soil, keeps roots cooler in the summer, and protects them in the winter. As it decomposes, mulch adds organic matter to the soil.

Check your irrigation system— Ask an irrigation specialist, or your landscape professional, to check sprinklers for proper flow and coverage.

SERENOA HAS SPOKEN INTRODUCING OUR NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS!

The ballots have been cast... and counted. Serenoa's voice has been heard... loud and clear. At the Serenoa Annual Meeting on March 30, the Board of Directors announced, seated, and welcomed two newly-elected members, and now prepares for a new term... and a full business agenda moving forward.

The community is grateful to all the candidates, and commends their civic responsibility, and courteous diplomacy during the run up to the election.

The HOA has proudly introduced its

newly-elected Board Members— **Dawn Marie Hamilton**, and, returning member, **Warren Miller**. Dawn will be assuming the position of Board Treasurer, and Warren will be assuming the position of Board Member at



Large. Warren has served as the Board Treasurer for the past year, and Dawn has served on multiple committees during her Serenoa residency.

In another proposal on the ballot, the community voted "disapprove" on clubhouse reservations for private affairs, thus continuing the moratorium.

Smile... you live in Serenoa!

AROUND THE SQUARE

Following the latest news and views from Serenoa

When the boys of Summer spent every Spring in Vero Beach



This striking billboard greeted visitors traveling on Florida's Route 1—effectively promoting Vero Beach, as well as its home-town baseball team.

The brilliant blue skies dotted with cotton ball clouds draw the eyes upward as sunlight bathes the emerald fields below. As anyone who has spent any time at Spring Training will tell you... that's just what Florida looks like this time of year.

The legendary Dodgertown complex, is of another time—a reminder of a simpler, more communal, more fan-friendly sport. The Los Angeles Dodgers left this place in 2009 for newer, if not greener, pastures in Arizona. It was a move that made sense in many ways, but the Dodgers left more than just a simple complex behind in Vero Beach.

Dodgertown's history runs deeper than any other such site—its traditions evoking laughter, and introspection, from those who lived them. From Jackie Robinson to Sandy Koufax to Mike Piazza, generations of Hall of Famers have called Dodgertown home in February and March.

But the Dodgers are hardly the only franchise with a laundry list of legends. The difference at Dodgertown was their accessibility to the fans. "Wherever you looked, there was somebody famous walking down a street or on a field," said ESPN baseball analyst Tim Kurkjian, who covered visiting teams at Dodgertown for better than 15 years. "Once you went to Dodgertown,

unprotected from the sun, the crowds, or errant foul balls." Those dugouts there were like nothing I've ever seen," said Kurkjian. "That was kind of what made Dodgertown so great—it just didn't look like anything else! It almost brought the players even closer to the fans sitting around them."

The Dodgers took over an old Navy housing base to build their complex—converting the barracks into villas where the players lived during the spring. That created a college-like atmosphere unlike anything seen at Spring Training sites today—with

a communal dining hall and recreation areas for families.

"That was the beauty of this place," said Historic Dodgertown director of marketing and communications Ruth Ruiz on a tour of the facility. "It was never shielded." That atmosphere extended to the

hospitality for writers like Kurkjian, who were often blown away by the accommodations, especially in comparison to what they were accustomed to. "At the places where the teams I covered trained, you would maybe get a sandwich in a

little shack before the game," he said. "Then we went to Dodgertown and they literally had shrimp cocktail for the writers before the game." If that wasn't fancy enough, there was an actual bar, open to all, including the working media. "Any media, visiting or home, could go in there and have a drink, have a beer, while they're writing their story," said Kurkjian. Players would wander in after games. "It was just amazing to me that this was how things were done in Dodgertown," said Kurkjian

Family time was at the core of off-field activities. Christmas in March was a perfect example. Right in the middle of March, before the team broke camp for six months of hellish travel, there would be a full-blown holiday celebration. "Families are away from each other quite a bit during the season, so the O'Malleys wanted to give them time to be with one another," said Ruiz. Peter O'Malley fondly recalled, "In 1952, the first Dodger St. Patrick's Day party in Vero Beach was hosted by my mother (Kay) and father (Walter) at Mckee Botanical Gardens—beginning a grand Dodger tradition, which continued for six decades, and are now legendary."

While the Dodgers may have departed, the memories live on today in Vero Beach—at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex.



Members of the 1952 Brooklyn Dodgers. L to R—Carl Furillo, Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Pee Wee Reese, Duke Snider, Preacher Roe, and Gil Hodges

you couldn't help but see Dodger blue and feel Dodger blue every step that you took."

That included on the field at Holman Stadium, where the dugouts are literally just that—holes in the dirt, largely

SERENOA'S PRESERVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM CONTINUES WITH AN AGGRESSIVE SPRING CLEANING INITIATIVE COMMUNITYWIDE.

The dedicated work of our Preserves Committee, headed by Wendy Swindell, continues its preservation efforts this month, as Sampson Tree Service enters their final round of work after a painstaking cleanout by machine and maintenance crews. Volunteers will be applying herbicide treatment in an ongoing effort, and volunteer days will be periodically organized for clearing small areas around the community.

The final inspection for trees has been done, and any trees determined by the arborist to be dead, and tall enough, to damage a home should it fall, will be taken down and left in the preserve to decompose.



Smile... you live in Serenoa!

AROUND THE SQUARE

Following the latest news and views from Serenoa

AS PELICAN ISLAND TURNS 120 YEARS OLD, WE RECALL THE TRAGIC TALE OF "THE FEATHER WARS".

On March 14, 1903, with the encouragement of the Florida Audubon Society, President Theodore Roosevelt established Pelican Island as the first federal bird reservation—giving birth to the National Wildlife Refuge System. Paul Kroegel of Sebastian was made warden for the American Ornithologist Union, and tasked with protecting the pelicans and birds in the Indian River Lagoon.

In 1913, noted ornithologist William Hornaday claimed that plume hunters had killed 71% of Florida's wading bird population between 1881 and 1908. By 1903, plume hunting (feather harvesting) had been outlawed by the state legislature in Florida but plume hunters, a different breed, had not stopped killing. There were no enforcements of this state law and the mass destruction of the rookeries continued. Florida became a Territory in 1821, and a State in 1845. The population grew. With such an abundance of waterways, forests, and fields, the population of wildlife and birdlife was enormous; so were the opportunities to acquire a fortune by hunting.

In 1905, Guy Bradley, an Audubon Warden in the Everglades, was killed by plume hunters. He was reported to have been found in a "folding" boat built by Paul Kroegel. In 1908, another Audubon Warden, Columbus C. McLeod of Charlotte Harbor was murdered. The deaths jolted the public, and lobbying began to end the reign of the plume hunters.

When the mass killings did not end, Naturalists William Hornaday and William Dutcher attacked big business. The "Feather Wars" shifted from the rookeries of Florida to New York City where the \$17 million millinery business suffered following the publication of the slaughter, and graphic photographs, of dying birds. This damaging publicity was used to introduce legislation to stop the plume hunting—and the public's support swung over to the Audubon Society. In 1910, the New York Legislature passed the Audubon Plumage Act outlawing trade in plumes. Congress banned the import of hats decorated with

plumes just as the change in fashion dedicated that plumed hats were associated with women of low character. Thus, the "Feather Wars" ended, but the rookeries would take decades to recover, and some bird species never returned.

Kroegel was informed that help was coming—naturalists and scientists from the Ivy League Universities that flocked to the Indian River in the early 1900's. They were also contemporaries of President Theodore Roosevelt and reported to the President about this unique little island of birds. The efforts of these people, spearheaded by Paul Kroegel's dedicated work, ultimately paid off.



Young sailors compete in early season Regatta on Tampa Bay.

Youth Sailing Foundation's Alex Delamarter (13), Nick LaRochelle (11), Hanno Vorholz (9) and Ole Vorholz (12) competed in the major Valentine's Day Regatta hosted by the St. Petersburg Yacht Club on February 12. Sailing on Tampa Bay in winds gusting to 32 knots,

solo, these young sailors skipper their own boats. They must simultaneously sail the boat, navigate the course, and maneuver in fleets of as many as 122 boats. It requires focus and determination to do all that while combating winds

Alex Delamarter on a choppy Tampa Bay.



and measuring a Force 7 on the Beaufort Scale, conditions were described as a moderate gale! A total of 308 junior sailors -- ages 9-13 -- from across Florida competed in this major regatta for the 8-foot Optimist Class dinghies. Sailing

up to 35 mph and steep four-foot waves. YSF's Nick LaRochelle took overall 4th place in the 67 boat Silver Fleet and 3rd in his age group. Alex Delamarter, and brothers Hanno and Ole Vorholz competed in the 241 boat Gold Fleet comprised of the best racing sailors in that class from across the state of Florida. All three acquitted themselves well with Alex finishing in the 1st quartile and Hanno and Ole in the 3rd.

YSF coach Herminio "Luke" Agront commented on how proud he was of his young sailors: "These boys rose to the challenge presented by the rough weather and huge fleet of top sailors. They all hung in there and showed exemplary seamanship and sailing skills under trying conditions."

There was no shortage of sea stories recounting a weekend of thrills on the long drive home to Vero Beach on Sunday evening.

SERENOA'S BI-ANNUAL COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION WILL WELCOME SHOPPERS APRIL 28TH AND 29TH!

Roll out the welcome mats—we're open for business! For two days, homeowners are free to purge their closets and cluttered garages, and, on the second day our talented craftspeople will be merchandising their handiwork in our casual clubhouse surroundings.



Smile... you live in Serenoa!

Make plans for a VB

Spring Fling

Longer days... more ways to enjoy!

THE LILLIES ARE BLOOMING! Come celebrate the beauty of McKee's most striking plant collection during the 17th Annual Waterlily Celebration on Saturday, **June 18 from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm**. During the late spring and summer months the ponds and waterways at McKee Botanical Gardens are adorned with one of the state's largest collections of waterlilies, which features over 80 varieties with over 300 potted and 100 free-range plants.



SAMPLE THE BEST BURGERS AND BREWS THAT VERO HAS TO OFFER!

Gear up for Independence Day week with a celebration of two of America's favorite taste treats... Burgers & Brews! Live performances will entertain the crowd all day along with vendors, a kids zone, breweries, car show, food trucks and delicious burgers. One of the highlights at Burgers & Brews is the "Best Burger in Indian River County Competition"—highlighting some of Vero's best eateries... and best burgers. Proceeds from this event will benefit the transformative programs United Against Poverty (UP) of Indian River County. These programs empower and inspire people living in poverty to lift their families to economic self-sufficiency through crisis stabilization, education, workforce training. **June 24, from 2:00 - 7:00 pm — under the oaks at Riverside Park.**

LIVE IN THE LOOP IS BACK FOR AN ENCORE!

Hang out, chill out and rock out to some "free & fabulous" music—outside on the patio at Riverside Theater. Beginning April 28th, most Friday and Saturday nights (rain or shine), will feature Vero's best bands, and talented musicians—when Live in the

Loop takes center stage. Enjoy burgers, chicken, barbecue, salads, ice cream, beer, wine, and cocktails. There's plenty of outdoor table seating and space for lawn chairs—suited to a fabulous, musical dining experience under the canopy of oak trees.

ARTISTICALLY INCLINED?

Check out Vero's Arts & Crafts Expo at the Indian River County Fairgrounds & Expo Center. Peruse over 180 vendor booths with a variety, and wealth, of art forms and craft items on display. Enjoy live music, kid's activities, delicious food, and more. **April 22-23, 2023**—at the **Indian River County Fairgrounds 7955 58th Ave Vero Beach.**



SEAFOOD LOVERS... SET SAIL FOR THE INDIAN RIVER FAIRGROUNDS!

The Vero Beach/Treasure Coast Seafood Festival invites seafood, and music, fans of all ages to a celebration of all things nautical, and a family-friendly adventure at the **Indian River Fairgrounds—7798 58th Ave Vero Beach on May 6-7**. The festival is a seafood enthusiast's dream come true—featuring a wide variety of seafood, merchandise and services. Artists and craftsmen will display, and sell, their original works. Live music will be performed on stage all three days... kids will enjoy rides and a kid's zone just for them. Local businesses and nonprofit organizations will provide news and information on available services.



HAPPY EASTER!
HAPPY PASSOVER!
& Happy Mother's Day!