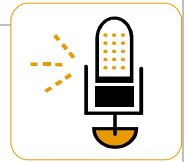


# Confederate Crossing

March 1, 2006  
Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring Newsletter (March, April, May)



## Confederate Crossing Homeowners Association Board

*Chester Bach*  
Treasure  
693-4611

*Pat Brant*  
Director  
781-4775

*Stephanie Harkins*  
Director  
783-6165

*Ann Neilson*  
Vice President  
783-0191

*Tod Wood*  
Director/President  
378-0701

*Susan Yates*  
Secretary  
781-1769

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## Updates from the Board

The board has been busy since taking over the association. There were many tasks that needed immediate attention. One of the first things was to rent a Post Office Box and get the water and electric into the HOA (Home Owner Association), not to mention general office supplies. Of course, after taking over in late October the holidays were upon us, so that was one of the hot items on the list. Ann Neilson was key in getting the committee organized and the decorations in place. Everyone did a good job. The financial records were given to the board on diskette. In order to read the financial records, we (HOA) had to purchase Quick Books. We are now able to generate the dues invoices quickly and easily. The Secretary has been busy getting the late dues notices, the current dues invoices and the violation letters out for us as well as keeping our meeting minutes.

The final records from Walter Williams and Jeanne Summerset were received by the HOB early January.

We also contacted DOT for

the new signs that were put into the neighborhood back in December following the Homeowners request at the last meeting in late October.

Another hot item we looked at was the lawn service. The service we had was too expensive and not being done to our satisfaction. Chester Bach was good enough to oversee the bids that were submitted for the service that we needed. Chester presented them to the HOB. The company that was awarded the contract was "**Mow Tech Professional Lawn Care**". The Mow Tech Company has already started the lawn service. We have already received compliments on their work.

There have been two sightings of two different gators in the lakes. The Florida Game & Wildlife Commission has captured one. The other one is being watched; waiting for an opportunity to present itself so that it will be captured too. Not to worry, they just relocate them to a safer environment for them and us. If you have seen the last gator recently, please let a board member know.

The ARB Board's formal process is working. The ARB Board has had four requests submitted and approved since the new HOB took over.

Remember, all major improvements are to be submitted with proper paperwork for approval to the ARB. You may drop your forms off to any board member of the HOB. ARB forms can be found on our website

[www.confederatecrossing.org](http://www.confederatecrossing.org)

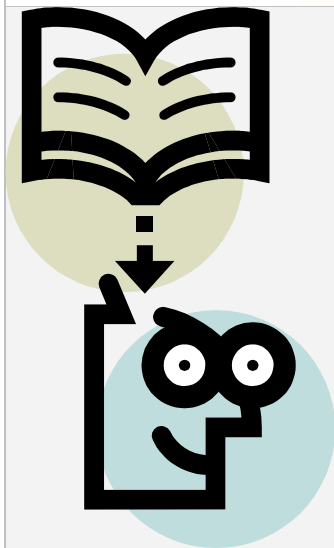
The Board is checking into fountains for the lakes. They are looking into cost and feasibility. We will keep you posted.

The Board has already filed the Annual Not-For-Profit Corporation report to the State of Florida. The 2005 Federal Tax Return for the Confederate Crossing HOA has already been sent in. Many of you have asked to see where your money goes. We have put the following chart together to show the Expenses for 2005:

Lawn Maint.	%45.76
Lake Main.	35.25
Attorney Fee	6.41
Insurance	4.01
Repairs	3.18
Utilities	2.97
Software	1.34
Corporate Registration	0.42
P. O. Box Rental	0.35
Miscellaneous	0.26
Bank Service Charges	0.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,423.90</b>

Expense Summary  
January through December 2005





*It was mentioned at the last Community meeting that it might be fun to give out a prize to the best lawn.*



## President's Thoughts

Hello Everyone. It is hard to believe that we have had the Association for four months. We have accomplished so much in such a short time. I hope you all have seen the difference. There is no way we could have gotten this much done without the dedication of our Board. I wanted to take this time to let everyone know how much I appreciate the team (board) I have been working with. Each person has given up so much of their personal time to do many tasks for our community. This has definitely taken a lot more time than I had originally thought, but I'm enjoying working with each one of you. There is a lot more to be accomplished, but I definitely think we're on the right track. I would like to take this opportunity to hand out some very well deserved

### THANK YOUs.

Thank you, Chester Bach for assisting with the lawn contracts and the front entrance clean up. Thank you, Ann Neilson for coordinating the holiday events that went well. Thank you, Stephanie Harkins for keeping the Covenants enforced by having ARB running smoothly. Thank you, Kristie Vockell & Susan Yates for putting the HOA newsletter together. Doesn't it look great? Thank you, Michelle Chance for all the work on the website. Thank you, Sharon Ridgway for being the financial advisor to us. I also want to say a very **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to the many volunteers who helped with the holiday events, the clean up, and serving on the ARB. I would like to thank you, the homeowners for keeping Confederate Crossing the best

subdivision to live in. I would also like to thank the homeowners who have already paid their 2006 dues. We have already had 66% who have paid. Finally, thank you to everyone who has donated their money, time or supplies. If you have any concerns or questions feel free to send me an email [woodman4@comcast.net](mailto:woodman4@comcast.net). For those that have sent me emails with information and concerns, keep them coming. Remember if you would like to receive the newsletter via email please send me your email address. Until the next newsletter, see you around the neighborhood.

## Under the Blue "Pool Talk"

Most of us have not thought much about our pools during the winter months. The water is cold, clear and nobody is swimming anyway. Now is time to start thinking about maintenance for your pool. Warmer days are just around the corner.

Maintenance now will avoid problems when it is time to use the pool. Check your skimmer

lids for cracks or breakage. Also, check the skimmer baskets for any damage. If they are broken, replace them. It is also a good idea to check the condition of the pump and filter. Is the pump leaking or making any kind of strange noises? Is there air visible in pump lid? Inspect the pump basket for breakage. Look at the o-ring on the pump lid. If it is cracked or broken, replace it.

Before opening your pool for the spring, it is a good time to service your filter. Cartridge type filters simply spray clean. Sand filters need to be backwashed and rinsed. DE filters backwash, rinsed and recharged.

Here are a few steps towards spring opening. Look for more tips to come.

## Community Tips

### Safety First

We have a great community that we live in and we need to keep safety in mind at all times. Activities that are done in your own private yard do not affect the rest of the neighborhood, but there are times that it flows out into the public areas. That's when we need to be more conscious of our surroundings and others. Not leaving toys or equipment in those public areas, whether it is roadways or easements. These things create an unsafe

environment. If you see someone coming and you have toys or equipment in the public right-of-ways; be a good neighbor and move out of the way. Also when you're done please be considerate enough to move your items back out of the public areas and back to your private property.

If you have a safety tip that you would like to share with newsletter committee, just pass it to any board member

and they will see that we get it.

### 2nd Annual Community Yard Sale

Please prepare for our Annual Yard Sale Event on Saturday April 1st from 8 am - 2 pm. This year we will place an advertisement in The Florida Times Union and in the Westside Treasure Chest. This will be a good time to take care of that spring-cleaning and make a little money too.

## Reminders

**Saint Patrick's day** on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Don't Forget to Wear Green.

**Duval Spring Break**

March 20<sup>th</sup> – March 24.

**Garage/Yard Sale**

April 1, 2006 9am – 2pm

**Spring Forward** April 2<sup>nd</sup> begins Daylight savings time

**Easter Sunday:** April 16<sup>th</sup>

**Taxes:** April 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday this year. Hopefully, everyone will get refunds.

**Cinco De Mayo**

May 5<sup>th</sup>

**Mother's Day:** Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

**Memorial Day:** May 30<sup>th</sup>

## Inside the House

### Cool Strawberry Soup

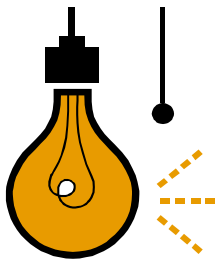
As the spring months heat up, sometimes having a dish that is cool would hit the spot. I discovered this strawberry soup while out cruising in southern waters on Carnival Cruises.

If you would like to feature a favorite recipe in the next newsletter please submit it via email them to Kristie Vockell kvockell@comcast.net.

2 cups frozen strawberries  
2 cups milk  
1 cup whipping cream  
½ cup sour cream  
1 tsp Sugar (optional)

Place all ingredients in a blender container. Blend on high until smooth, Add sugar to taste, Chill overnight for best results, but 2 hours works. Served in chilled soup cups.

## Housework and Technology



I will be the first to admit I hate housework. I love my new house as I'm sure most you do as well. I just do not like spending half the day cleaning it.

So, I decided to start incorporating some technology to help with this tiresome burden.

I bought a "Roomba" iRobot with an online gift certificate given to me by my aunt as house warming present. A week later, a box the size of 2 pizza boxes arrives at my door. I pull out this very large round red disk thing that had buttons with "spot" and "clean" on the top.

Like a kid with a new toy, I quickly read the instructions and verified all the parts were attached and ready to go. Unfortunately, I had to wait one more day because that is how long it takes to charge the battery for the first time.

My husband came in the door, looked at me then looked at it. He said with concern that the red flashing eye on the top reminded him of the "A Space Odyssey" movie's creepy computer that took over the ship and killed everyone.

I told him it attacks only dirty things. The dog and kids will be the first to go.

I was ready and prepared to start this thing. I quickly pushed the button marked

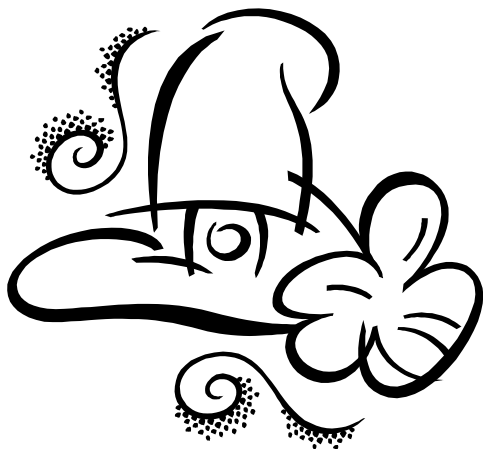
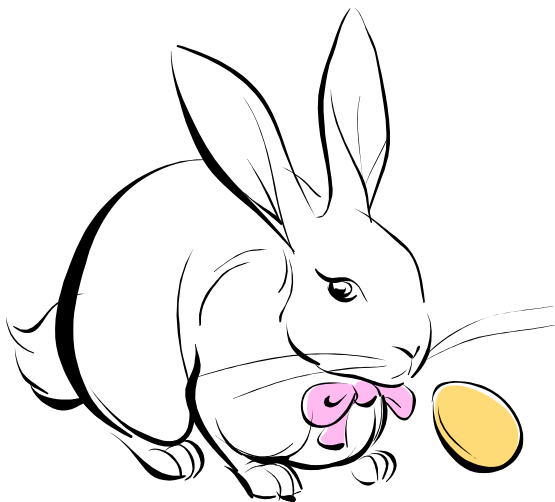
"clean." It responded back by playing tones that sounded like Charge! and off it went.

For 2 ½ hours it worked on my living room floor. I was impressed. It is a great little surface cleaner for picking up pet hair and standard every day dirt. Of course, I had to peel my cat off the ceiling. It is a little loud.

The only draw back to the little vacuum is you have to clean it after each session. It took me 5 minutes to clean it and put it away.

As I make light of my adventure, I'm really looking for your ideas to help our busy lives less stressful. Please send any helpful hints to Kristie Vockell via email at kvockell@comcast.net

## Color Me!



## Kids Corner

The Kids corner section will be for the children in the neighborhood to submit articles about their interests, daily lives, or fictional stories.

Also, there may be puzzles, trivial games or/and something to color.

This week is a color me selection and a quick puzzle.

Please feel free to email your ideas to Kristie Vockell at [kvockell@comcast.net](mailto:kvockell@comcast.net).

## Puzzle me!

S	X	Y	B	B
A	R	A	A	O
I	L	I	T	Y
L	U	R	N	S
S	L	R	I	G

FIND:

SAILS  
RING  
GIRLS

BOYS  
BAT  
BALL

## Welcome to the Neighborhood

**Glen & Gloria Kivipelto,**  
10605 Grayson Ct.

**Glen & Carmen Stone,**  
10696 Grayson St.

**Larry & Elaine Wells,**  
10744 Grayson Ct

Please visit the Confederate Crossing Website at  
**[WWW.ConfederateCrossing.ORG](http://WWW.ConfederateCrossing.ORG)**