

Prestancia Pipeline

THE PRESTANCIA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2007

We have a brand new website that launched this month, Prestancians! Visit www.Prestancia.org and check out the website, including testimonials from some of our neighbors, community photos, archived newsletters, Sarasota facts and more! The website was the team effort of Yours Truly, Bob Swan, Jone Weist, and the web MASTERMIND of the team is Steven Lombardo, of The Manors. Known as The Digital Handyman (www.digitalhandymanonline.com). He should be applauded for his outstanding web efforts. (See page 8 for a visual and more details about the website).

On a sad note, we say goodbye to Dr. Chuck Holmes as our Board of Governors President. He passes the torch to Russ Seifert after six years at the helm of our community's government. For those of you who know Chuck, his devotion to Prestancia, its wildlife and his fellow neighbors (most of whom he didn't even know) are unsurpassed. His vision, dedication, volunteerism and kindness will always be appreciated and respected. Please send him an email to show your gratitude or good wishes and I'll print them out for him (he doesn't have email). PipelineEditor@comcast.net. I'd love to hear feedback about the new website, too!

~Andrea Martone, Prestancia Pipeline Editor



A woodpecker as photographed by The Manors resident Joan Engel



THE HOLMES REPORT

A FINAL MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, CHUCK HOLMES

It's difficult for me to realize that this is my last column after serving six years as President of the Board of Governors. I can honestly say I have really enjoyed serving this community. It has been an honor and a privilege.

Much has happened during these six years, and I would like to report what has been accomplished. Six years ago many of you attended a Town Hall Meeting at TPC and the following subjects were outlined and discussed: master tree plan,

continued on page 2

The Holmes Report

continued from page 1

master landscape plan, planting the south gate area and the preservation areas, Preservation Area Tract 701, regulating Lake 120, removal of invasive plants, lake refurbishment, irrigation improvements, fountain renovation and lighting repairs, wall repairs and painting, sewer grates to be repaired and painted, well drilling and pumps, new wall monument SE corner, guard houses/floors and structural repairs, parking areas for guard cars, entrance lighting, sidewalk repairs, entry paver repairs/cleaning and sealing, gate arms repair and replacement, entry access computer improvements, guard house painting, website creation, and status of our reserves. An assessment of \$1,100 per homeowner was asked for and approved.

Now, six years later, I can report that everything on the preceding list has been dealt with and then some. Another monument wall was constructed and landscaped on the NE corner of our property as well. The Board approved drilling four deep augmentation wells so we can control water levels in our major lakes and littoral shelves. These wells are hooked up to commercial-sized pumps which we own and which are checked on a quarterly basis. In times of drought we have water available to use for irrigation on our common areas.

Both guard houses have been completely renovated, including the roofs, and we have in place state of the art audio and video security systems. Unique new free-standing lights were made especially for Prestancia and installed at both gates. We have set up a maintenance schedule for the fountain, walls and sidewalks on an annual basis. In short, I think the Board has this place in good shape and intends to keep it that way, and our reserve funds are approaching \$250,000 — the highest these funds have ever been. We will need this money when it comes time to repave Prestancia Boulevard.

I have to thank so many people for making all of this happen. Heartfelt thanks to all of the residents for allowing it to happen.

The Board of Governors worked so well together during the past six years — Jack Miller, Don Aubrey, Karen Rushing, Robert Norton — all were wonderful to work with. I consider them all good friends. Special thanks also go to a lot of other people: The Barlow Group and Jone Weist — they are the best, and Jone never let me down on any phone call or request I had, and performed her duties in a flawless manner. In recent years, Bob Swan agreed to chair the Maintenance Committee as well as the Design and Development Board. He has been a tireless worker and deserves the lion's share of the credit for the improvements on our guard houses and the new lights.

We are also very fortunate to have Andrea Martone as our editor for this newsletter. She has a wealth of professional experience. She volunteered for the job because she loves Prestancia.

It is time to now say so long, and I'm finding it difficult to do. We have a new website up and running, and the opening paragraph expresses what I feel about this community: "When you enter the gates of Prestancia, you enter an awe-inspiring world of privacy, serenity and luxury — a place where 'living the good life' is also an excellent real estate investment. A place that many will covet, a place that you'll be proud to call home." I love this community, and I hope all of you do as well.

~Dr. Chuck Holmes

The Rep Report

LaVista's Annual Meeting was held in January and five brave homeowners were elected to the Board: Nancy Allen, Don Awbrey, Joe Berrier, Dan Harlan and Joe Kack. New owners Sean and Pat Skinner were officially welcomed to the neighborhood.

A Committee has been created to investigate the possibilities for cosmetic upgrades to our three entrance fountains, as well as to the exteriors of our homes.

— **Joe Berrier, LaVista**

Nothing new at Villa Marada other than normal maintenance. We do have two new residents (baby sandhill cranes) born March 2, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The oldest is named "Fairway" and the youngest is "Rough." They turned five weeks old on Friday the 30th and are doing well, already approximately 15 to 18 inches tall.

— **Mike Gates, Villa Mirada**

On March 17th, at the Manors' Annual Board meeting, three new Board members were elected and the new board was installed. The new Board is as follows: President: Melvin Cohen, Vice-President: Barbara V. Leifer, Vice-President: Herb Jones, Treasurer: Stephen Engel, Secretary: Tom Kimball. The attendance at the Annual meeting set a Manors record, with 62 members present! This level of member participation was due in great part to the efforts of Micky and Tom Bohan and Giselle Pelaprat-Buszin, who worked diligently to GET OUT THE VOTE! Thank you Gisele, Micky, and Tom! The departing Board members, Dan Doyle, Bill Myers, and Julie Wyman, were thanked for their terms of service. Mrs. Wyman was asked to continue her efforts to oversee the landscaping of the Manors' Common Areas, and graciously accepted. A first draft of the revised Manors By-Laws and Documents was completed and distributed to all members, with a request for comments by May 1st. The Revisions Committee has been working on updating our documents for the past three months and the team has made great progress. The next step is most critical, and the committee looks forward to receiving the comments of all of the homeowners. All of those in the Manors also look forward to improvements due to the new membership at TPC — another fresh start! The final part of the Manors' re-paving project will be completed shortly, with the installation of the

entrance pavers. Finally, the residents would like to welcome Ed and Mary Spraker, who recently moved to Boca Pointe Drive from Villa D'Este.

— **Barbara Leifer, The Manors**

Villa D'Este continues its upgrade. The new roofs are installed, the pool and common area are retiled and beautiful and we even installed a new attractive fence around the pool area. But wait, we didn't stop there. We are now repainting the entire neighborhood with fresh, mold-resistant paint and already we are almost 40% finished. A number of our neighbors also replaced their garage doors with new garage doors that can withstand over 130 mph winds. Let's hope we don't have to test them. C'mon over and take a look. Our neighborhood poet laureate did and here is his take on the place: "Villa D'Este is the premier neighborhood in Prestancia and here is the proof. We all spent a fortune to install a hurricane-resistant roof. But we decided to go further and be totally cool. We completely retiled and beautified our common area and pool. Now we are repainting the place and all our homes look like new. What's left to be done? I'm sure our Board and Barlow will tell us what to do."

— **Tom Rempe, Villa D'Este**

The annual meetings are drawing to a close as I write this. In Mara Villa I the reps are the same as last year, Dottie Baker and Bob Kelly. We are currently seeking another intelligent, progressive, enthusiastic person to fill the third seat on our board. Interested? Let's talk! Spring is in the air — everything is lush and green and bursting with life! The air even smells green! The white pelicans that have been hanging out by the fourth hole must think this is a great place too. Jone from Barlow Group said that a few have been showing up the last few years, but this year, as she put it, "they brought the whole clan." These birds are rather rare, so take a walk and some binoculars while they grace us with their beauty. At our annual meeting we discussed plans to further enhance Mara Villa I — so by this time next year our community should look decidedly different! It's exciting being part of all the changes that taking place throughout Prestancia.

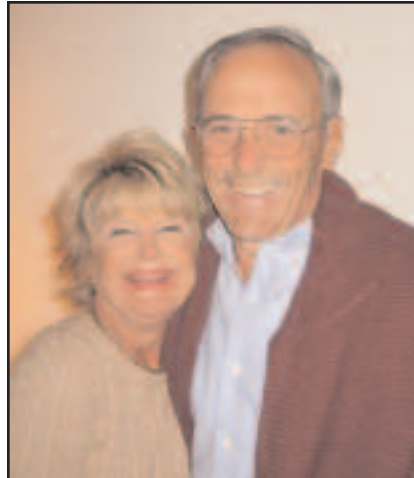
— **Dot Baker, Mara Villa**

Prestancia

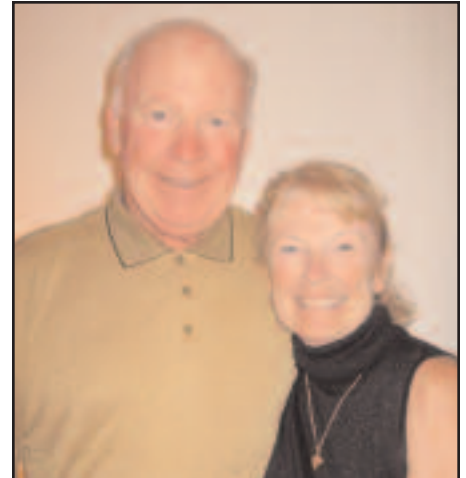
I love when residents send in photos to this publication! In this case, a lively group of Mara Villa folks gathered spontaneously for a fun-filled winter party at the home of Joan and Glen Strike. Please send in your party photos so we can chronicle the good times!



Mike and Madeline Menzella



MaryAnn and Ralph Capozzi



Charles and Kathleen Wines



Glen and Joan Strike



Madeline and Joe Charron



"Anyone for dessert?"

China, Anyone?

Tom and Susan Isgar (famed wildlife photographers of Prestancia) are taking their lenses across the world and are asking for Prestancians to join them. They're leading a trip to China the first two weeks of June. The trip will be built around photographing pandas in Chengdu and Wolong. In addition, they are currently working on the details of two additional stops. The first is in Guilin to photograph fishing cormorants and China's largest butterfly garden. The second stop is in Huangshan, home of the "yellow mountains." All the stops will allow opportunity to photograph additional scenery, local people, street scenes and Chinese historical sites. The entire trip will be escorted by English-speaking guides. Although some of the details are still being sorted out, the core trip to Chengdu and Wolong for Panda photography will be about \$4,000 and last seven to eight days. The add-ons will probably run \$1,500-\$1,800 each. The total time out of the U.S. will be 12 to 16 days. You will be able to select one or both. You need not be professional photographers to join this group. Contact Tom at 941.923.9004 or email: tomi777@comcast.net.

a's People

TOM and ANGIE VAUGHAN were married January 1, 2006. Tom owns a local car wash and Angie is a real estate agent. Their hobbies include traveling, scooter rides, boating, their RV, tennis, kissing, holding hands, and going to concerts. They also attend Covenant Life Presbyterian Church and are part of a small group there. They both grew up here in Sarasota and attended Gulf Gate, Brookside and Riverview High School. Recently one of their hobbies has become bird watching here at Prestancia. They enjoy spotting the bald eagles, ospreys, sand hill cranes and just recently their "babies," red-shouldered hawks and the great horned owls. And on one rare occasion they spotted an otter. Yes, they are quite the nature enthusiasts!



Lights! Camera! Action! Palacio Home to Former Star



Ivy Martin holds a photo of Mae West with Mae's leading Broadway man (Ivy's late husband Charles G. Martin).

Prestancia is home to many colorful personalities, so it's no surprise that Ivy Martin made Palacio her home eight years ago. A former Broadway actress and film star, Ivy's home boasts a medley of fascinating signed framed photos of legendary figures such as Faye Dunaway, Anthony Quinn, Geraldine Page, Veronica Lake, Kay Francis, Bert Lahr, Robert Conrad, Gaby Hays, among others. But Ivy isn't just another fanatic fan — she actually worked with these legendary figures! As an actress all her life, she devoted her life to the stage and television, with roles in "The Happening," "Cocoon," and in the television hit series "Flipper."

Ivy's late husband, Charles G. Martin, also was a star in his own right, as Mae West's leading man on Broadway. She asked this Pipeline editor, "why don't ya come up and see me sometime...." and I did. The result was a fascinating afternoon going back into time and hearing stories about her life and friends that are only a fantasy to others.

Petite, high-spirited, humorous and gracious, her sparkling eyes reveal a woman whose heart is still young and her zest for life and adventures still strong (though not for the stage). "A lot about age is attitude," says Martin, who walks 20 miles a week at the local YMCA to keep in tip top shape (and she's in great shape!).

She also does a fabulous impersonation of Betty Boop. Ask her to show you her talent when you meet her.

She moved to Prestancia after living in Miami where she raised her family. Ivy isn't just blessed with a rich career, she's also blessed with grandchildren (one in Ocala, Florida and the other in Chicago).

The “Philanthropic Life”

Dear Prestancia Philanthropists,

We know you are out there doing wonderful, generous things for our Community! “Philanthropists” are not just people who donate large sums of money...they are also “humanitarians” and “do-gooders” who volunteer either their time or money to help make our life and world a better place. Please contact us about your projects and we will include it in the next Prestancia Pipeline!!

Thank you, Julie Wyman
927.5580 or julie46@comcast.net



A Moorhen as photographed by Joan Engel

Keepers of the Gates

We may see them every day as we drive through the gates, but do we really know them? They have lives, interests, families, passions. They’re our Keepers of the Gates! Meet **CAPTAIN RUSS TOUCHSTONE**, who has overseen the guards at Prestancia gates for the past five years. Looking at him, he could have opted to be a Hollywood movie star! But instead, he’s a dedicated family man, born and raised in Sarasota. His wife, Shelby, is an interior decorator, and he has two children, Brandon, 8, and Megan, 3. He lives in North Port and is currently attending Manatee Community College to get his degree in Computer Engineering. In his spare time he loves building websites and working on “all things computers.” Captain Touchstone says he loves Prestancia “because of the supportive Board of Governors and its generous community.” When asked for anecdotes about the community, he smiled and said, “How about the time a six-foot alligator tried to come into the guard house, bumping his nose against the glass? I had to call a trapper! Plus, he wasn’t a legitimate resident.”



SHANNON HORN has her eyes set not only on protecting Prestancia’s neighbors, but protecting women who are victims of abuse, as evident in her first book *Not Just Surviving*. A Sarasota born and bred gal, this purpose-driven woman hopes her book will mentor women escape abuse in domestic and personal relationships. The book, available at Amazon.com, is a chronological self-portrait about how she was a victim herself and empowered herself to move forward in life. She is taking her passion for helping other abused women even further by heading an inspirational upcoming program at the Women’s Resource Center in Sarasota.

In her personal life, she is a single mom to her daughter, Alyssa, 14. She also believes in the old adage, “laughter is the best medicine,” and is honing her skills as a comedienne for an upcoming gig at McCurdy’s Comedy Club on May 17. The one-woman act begins at 7:30 pm, and tickets are \$10 at the door. An early round of applause for Shannon!



TPC Interim General Manager
Jim Poole

Born and raised in Jacksonville, 39-year old Jim Poole appreciates his sunny state for all its splendor and beauty, especially its stellar golf courses. And what better way to combine your passion for the game with a career? Become a general manager of a golf course! Prestancia welcomes Jim as TPC's interim general manager, replacing Robert Norton who moved on. Jim comes to TPC Prestancia from two other TPC courses: Scottsdale and Sawgrass in Ponte Vedre Beach, Florida. Prior to that he worked as a golf professional in Atlanta. "Coming here to TPC in Prestancia is the best opportunity for me to round out my training as a head golf professional and work in my role as a general manager," says Jim, who was appointed in January. He lives with his wife, Michelle, and the couple's two children, Susannah, 10, and Caroline, 8.

Jim has a lot of work ahead of him as he oversees a \$3.8 million renovation of the TPC Stadium course, which closes for renovations May 1 to October 31. Renovations include replacing irrigation and greens. The Club course remains open, as does the Clubhouse, which is also under renovation.

PCA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Russ Seifert — President • Don Awbrey — Treasurer
Karen Rushing — Vice President • Jim Poole — Corporate Secretary

Committee Chairpeople

Bob Swan — Committee Chair/Design and Development Board
Chuck Holmes — Landscape

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PARADISE FOUND

In this exclusive gated community in Sarasota, Florida

When you enter the gates of Prestancia, you enter an awe-inspiring world of privacy, serenity, and luxury. A place where "living the good life" is also an excellent real estate investment. A place that many will covet, a place that you'll be proud to call "home."

In Old World Spanish, Prestancia means "Excellence." To us, it means years of methodical planning, all the best talent and careful execution each and every step of the way. Prestancia is a marvel in planning, one that is innovative and alive, yet one that is in synergy with its surroundings and environment.

Life Should Be Nothing Short of Spectacular!

For those with discriminating tastes, life's rich rewards begin at Prestancia, a secluded enclave that defines grandeur and elegance. An exquisitely carved stone fountain welcomes residents and guests alike, defining the Mediterranean-influenced community that lies beyond its sparkling waters. Spacious estate homes, villas and multi-level condominium residences are flanked by palm trees and breathtaking landscapes.

The community is reminiscent of life that is reflective of Old World charm, where culture, nourishment and land are a cherished part of everyday experiences. Heightening the appeal of living within its gates, Prestancia is an Audubon-sanctioned wildlife sanctuary that is a unique characteristic to Prestancia residents who truly cherish the environment.

In short, we cherish our lifestyles!

Prestancia promises a life of superlatives. We look forward to welcoming you as our new neighbors!

Call Us
941.927.1946



Living the Good Life...online!