

February, 2016



From The President's Desk By Charlie Dietz

A new year, 2016 is upon us. At the Annual Meeting on January 11, the election for four Board positions resulted in one re-elected member, Frank Sperduto, and three new members, Marie O'Connor, George Thorell and myself (Charlie Dietz). I thank all of the candidates for their interest in and service to our community. Those leaving the Board are Bob Madan, Steve Graczewski and Paul Vallier. Thanks for your time and effort over the last few years.

The new board held an organizational meeting on January 15 and the following Board positions for 2016 were established:

President	Charlie Dietz
Vice President	Anthony Pacelli
Treasurer	George Thorell
Secretary/ Clubhouse & Pool Maintenance	Marie O'Connor Frank Sperduto
Landscaping	Jerome Kelly
Docks & Waterways	Carl Gustavsen

I am honored and humbled by the confidence my fellow Board members seem to have in me. Conversely, I have confidence that they will do well in each of their positions. All of us have prior Board experience. It is the goal of all of us To make sure that de la Bahia remains the high quality community it has been in the past. That means we have to continue to make improvements in all areas.

I have asked Tony Pacelli to oversee the enforcement of our rules and regulations. This includes vehicle and boat registration. We all should have acknowledged that we have read and will abide by these rules and regulations. Stickers or temporary passes for your vehicles are available in the office.

The clubhouse bar has been remodeled. It is a first class job! We thank the men that worked tirelessly to complete this job saving us a significant amount of money. They are a valuable asset to our community along with the dockworkers and men that help maintain the landscaping and whatever else we ask them to do. I DO NOT know of any other condo community that has an asset such as our "Thursday" workers and other volunteers, both men and women. THANK YOU ALL!

In closing, I am happy to re-instate the newsletter and will try to have two issues per winter season. There will be inputs from my fellow Directors and I invite any de la Bahia group/organization to submit articles. As President, I promise to operate in an open, organized fashion keeping the best interests of de la Bahia as my primary goal.

Treasurer's Report By George Thorell

The Treasurer's job is to manage and control the financial resources of the Association. This includes preparing the yearly budget, securing loans when needed, monitoring expenses, and placing our reserve funds into safe, interest producing investments.

This year, we will reach a couple milestones. We have completed payment on our 3-year pool loan (Yes – the pool is all ours now!). Also, those who are making payments on the 10-year roof loans from the hurricanes (That was 10 years ago already?) will be making their last payments in April. This year, we will be hiring a professional reserve study company to conduct an analysis of our reserve funds to assure that they are adequate. Additionally, we have a 3 year CD for \$250, 000 (Reserve Funds) that will be expiring this year, so I will be looking for the

best safe and insured investment return for these funds.

I am pleased to be your new Treasurer and I am looking forward to a productive and financially responsible 2016. Our financial records will be totally transparent. They are available at any time to any owner who requests them. If you have any questions regarding the Association finances, please feel free to contact me.

A Look Into The History Of Our Dockworkers By Bob Madan

De La Bahia is a great place to live. De La Bahia has all the amenities of many adult communities plus some very special traditions that build cohesiveness, community and camaraderie. These attributes are a product of the people and the infrastructure developed over time and necessity.

Back in the late 1990's it was recognized that our docks were rapidly eroding and replacement was becoming necessary. A young man by some standards, Tom Lefferman brought together a few residents to replace the top boards on the most seriously worn docks. When I arrived in 2003 Dock Workers were busily working every Thursday on all sorts of dock maintenance. However, it soon became clear that more extensive work was necessary if our Hallmark Attraction, our water access, was not to be lost. In 2003 Dawson Brown and others, began to consider the replacement not only of the top boards but also the pilings and infrastructure of the entire marina.

A commercial dock construction company was selected to replace the North River Dock. However, it soon became evident that their work was expensive and of poor quality. It was decided that we could do better by using resident workers to conduct all the work.

A barge was designed by Paul Vallier, An outboard motor was donated. An old pontoon boat was acquired along with a winch, crane and decking. The finished de la Bahia Barge was launched over the spillway between

Buildings N and O. The Dock Workers were officially underway.

The South River Dock was our next assignment. This was one of our first efforts in the entire replacement of docking facilities. This included replacement of pilings, stringers, electrical, water, lighting and access ramps. In 2005 following the Hurricanes, Martin County approved the repair of docks without permits. De La Bahia became legal to work without permits.

Things went well until in 2010 when the Martin county building inspectors were notified of our work and we were ordered to cease work on the docks until proper permits were obtained. At that time it was estimated that for every piling replaced, De La Bahia had saved approximately \$400. There are 4 to 5 pilings per dock and there are over 230 docks. Four hundred sixty thousand dollars in total could be saved.

Arrangements were made with a local contractor to have de la bahia volunteers be used as designers and labor and the Contractor inspect the work for a nominal fee. The Contractor would review the work prior to the formal inspection by the Martin County Building Department. Permits were approved by Martin County, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Corps of Engineers and others finally approved the plans. All these applications were approved and we are still working under these permits to this day.

The Work Parties continued to grow and work now the work we do influences many areas of our lives. As examples; Library, Bar, Landscaping, Water, electrical, lighting, breakfast, lunch for our workers and anything else that may be required. There are things we do not undertake but there is little we will not consider.

Don Corrigan has become the glue in this operation. He manages the men like a conductor for the Boston Pops. He instills pride and worth into everyone. He juggles the schedule, selects crew leaders and sets priorities to meet the needs. He grows the camaraderie like a farmer in his field. And this seeds the entire group. The work and results we achieve are recognized by all our residents.

This completes the loop of success and service to our community of which all are so proud. If you chose to help in the improvement of our community, show up some Thursday at 8:00 AM in the Clubhouse and see if you like it. You're always welcome.

De La Bahia Docks and Waterways By Carl Gustavsen

The dockworkers are currently working on finger piers behind B and C buildings. Beginning Thursday, February 11 we will start work on the docks parallel to the sea wall behind the overflow parking area between B and C buildings. This work will probably carry through the month and into March.

We are also currently looking to address sea wall undermining behind K building and eventually A building.

A reminder to all boat owners: If you do not have a de la Bahia registration sticker for your boat, please come to the office and see myself or Jami with your boat registration so we can log in your make and size of boat and slip number. This is a great help to anyone who sees a problem with your vessel. We have had a few near sinking's lately, and we need to know how to contact vessel owners. Also, if you are using electric at the dock permanently, there is a fee that can be paid at the office.

I thank you for allowing me to serve on the Board of Directors, and will continue to do my best to keep the marina area safe and in good repair. Enjoy the season!

Come Join The Fun With The Stitchers! By Toni Jablonski

It's the middle of February and the Stitchers are in full swing. We have quite a few new members this year. Welcome to you all.

We are working on many different projects. Many are doing Swedish weaving (beautiful

afghans). Some are knitting beautiful baby blankets. Some are doing quilting projects. Some people just come in to visit for the great company and support of friends. We're always exchanging ideas and patterns. We're also teaching each other new techniques in Swedish weaving and sewing, etc.

We celebrated a birthday last week. Next week we celebrate another one. We have tea parties to celebrate anything we can think of.

Some of our members are crocheting premie hats for the hospital. One of our members is crocheting squares for a beautiful afghan.

One of our members made a Swedish weaving afghan for a friend of one of our members. She comes once a year to visit. She's was so touched about the afghan, that she was brought to tears. She said, and I quote "These girls are the best. I have so much fun. Feels like I've known them for years".

So I'll close for now. Stop in and say "hello".
Monday 1:00 p.m. Thursday 10:00 a.m.

Social Committee Happenings By Roseanne Tamulinas

The New Years Eve Gala kicked off our social season. Eighty residents enjoyed a prime rib dinner and rang in the New Year dancing to the music of the Solid Gold Dance Band from Port St. Lucie.

The Pancake Breakfasts are back in full swing and a big thank you to George Thorell, his kitchen staff and all our ladies who set up the dining hall and serve.

Again, our White Elephant Sale was a huge success.

Viva Italian Night was successful as well, and Ray Gaumont had us all up dancing to the Cupid Shuffle and the Electric Slide.

Super bowl Sunday was February 7th. Both the bar and dining room were used. We now have 3 large screen TV's so guests were able to comfortably view the game and enjoy the delicious food.

The Fabulous Fifties Party with the Jerry Chambers Show on February 27th is sure to rock the roof off the Clubhouse.

Please watch for all upcoming events on Channel 63 and your building bulletin boards.

Pool and Clubhouse News

By Marie O'Connor

A lot of changes have occurred pertaining to the clubhouse and pool. We have gotten a new pool cover (thank you Paul Cucera, and anyone that helped you for all the hard work). Just a reminder, the pool will be covered when the temperature falls below 70. Unfortunately, the pool has had to be covered quite a lot this season. Hopefully that will change and the weather will become nicer.

We have had a number of changes in the clubhouse. We had all the windows professionally cleaned. A company was hired to come in and steam clean the hallway in the clubhouse and both the men's and ladies room. They also steam cleaned both bathrooms by the pool. A company was hired that will come in every Thursday afternoon to clean the clubhouse and bathrooms by the pool.

The bar has been completed, and I am sure everyone will agree, it looks beautiful. The men are enjoying socializing after golf on Monday and dockworkers on Thursday. A big thank you to all who worked so diligently to get this project completed. A special thank you to the person or persons that donated the two flat screen TVs in the bar area. The new plantation shutters will be installed on Monday, February 8. The Social Club has made it possible for us to have these new shutters. Even as I am writing this, the new carpeting is being installed.

As far as the dining room is concerned, the new dining room chairs are coming Monday, February 8. They are a little wider and there is a lot more cushioning. We are pleased to let everyone know the old dining room chairs were donated to House of Hope in Stuart.

The Stitchers' group seems to be growing. The women are always happy to teach anyone that would like to learn to make different items they may not know how to make. The socializing is also great. Check channel 63 re: days and times they meet.

The Lilly Padders have also grown. Please check channel 63 regarding the days and times they meet.

The exercise classes, the Zumba classes and the bingo are all doing well. This is a great way to meet people, have some fun and possibly win money!

I hope everyone is pleased with all the changes occurring in the clubhouse and pool. All this is being done to help make de la Bahia an even nicer place to live.

Parking Violations

By Tony Pacelli

De la Bahia has received a number of complaints regarding parking violations.

We have canvassed ALL parking areas, and have cited 25 cars with violations as listed in our Rules and Regulations. We also found a number of vehicles that were over the 222" length a vehicle can be in order to legally park here. They were also cited.

If the corrections by the owners are not completed in the allotted time, it leaves the Board in a position of towing those violators.

In an effort to be fair to the owners of these oversize vehicles, the Board has decided these vehicles can park in the overflow spaces by

building "U" & "C". All owners of oversized vehicles can keep their vehicles here until

December 31, 2016. **THESE VEHICLES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PARK ON THE DE LA BAHIA PROPERTY BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017, OR THEY WILL BE TOWED AT THE OWNERS EXPENSE.**

We are also reviewing complaints of traffic violations – **SPEEDING – NO STOPPING AT POSTED SIGNS, ETC.** The current thought to eliminate these problems would be putting back speed bumps and having lighted Stop signs. All of the above are currently under discussion.

Maintenance

By Frank Sperduto

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in the recent election. I wouldn't be here without your support and appreciate that you have given me the opportunity to serve on the board again. Therefore, I would like to take the time to inform every one of the present and future projects.

Presently, the paving has been completed. The striping and stenciling of parking spots are being finalized. We are looking into the cost and the installation of speed bumps throughout the complex.

The next project should be painting of the buildings. We will be painting 3 buildings this year between April 1, 2016 and August 1, 2016. Next year (2017) we will paint 7 buildings. The entire project should be completed in 2021 with all the buildings, clubhouse, and perimeter walls receiving a new coat of paint.

There are a few items we may be able to complete in the near future that I feel will be a benefit to the community. I would like to install an additional water faucet for attaching a garden hose in front of each building. Presently all our water faucets are on the side of the buildings and require 100+ feet of hose to get around to the front and upstairs of a building. By installing a faucet in front of the

building, any resident whether upstairs or downstairs will have easy access to the water and hose for cleaning or washing purposes, such as walkways etc. without having to connect and drag 100+ feet of hose around.

Please feel free to contact me through the office if you have any suggestions or any questions not only on these projects, but on any item you feel you would like to talk to me about. If I am not available please leave a note with your name, unit and telephone number where you can be reached and I will contact you as soon as possible.

Yacht Club News

By Gene Reed

The 2015-2016 season has started with a robust attendance and enthusiasm. The start of our season, our Meet and Greet, began with the threat of rain, but moving inside proved to be worthwhile. A good time was had by all.

Our first off-site adventure, Lunch With A View, had 106 members in attendance. Weather was a bit soggy, but the panoramic harbor view was there and everyone enjoyed it. The twisted Tuna did a great job with our group.

The bridge, our volunteers, and members made our theme island party – Koko Mo a success.

Check the bulletin boards for information on our Raft-Up. There is a sign up sheet in the clubhouse hall.

On a sadder note, after the January meeting there was a remembrance for the life of Mike Ashley. The General was a strong supporter of the Yacht Club. He never missed a meeting. Even in the last couple of months he was in attendance. He will be missed.

Our schedule going forward:

February 17, 2016, Wednesday Yacht Club Meeting

February 24, 2016, Wednesday Raft-Up

March 2, 2016, Wednesday Locks Party

March 9, 2016, Wednesday Yacht Club Meeting

March 16, 2016, Wednesday Yacht Club Meeting

March 19, 2016, Saturday Commodore's Ball

Being able to be a member of the de la Bahia Yacht Club is one of the benefits of being either an owner or a renter in the de la Bahia community. All members can enjoy great social activities on and off the water with hearty fun and camaraderie. If you are already a member, glad to have you aboard. If not, you should consider joining by contacting one of the bridge members or checking with Jami at the front office.

Landscaping

By Jerome Kelly

A dozen trees have already been planted. Mulch has been put down. Hopefully, we can put in another 15 trees this year. Some trees will be removed, and the new trees we plant will not need to be trimmed. We are also going to plant flowers in the entrance to de la Bahia. We plan to trim the trees in June, right before hurricane season. I would like to thank all the men that helped me trim, remove and plant trees.